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## **Community Well Testing Program**

For over 30 years, Raritan Headwaters (RHA) has partnered with municipalities throughout the region to offer residents the opportunity to test their well water. Townships work with us to organize an event that suits their needs and resources. This could be a one day event or well test kits may be made available through a township office for several weeks. RHA provides all testing kits and necessary materials for outreach including press releases and flyers. On a designated day, residents return their water samples to the municipal building or other specified public location. Samples are then transported to the RHA office where they are picked up by a state certified laboratory for analysis. Information is not shared with any party other than the homeowner and results data can be used to assess groundwater quality in our area. This program makes the important practice of regular well testing even easier and more convenient for residents.

#### Cost

A basic kit costs \$60 with an additional menu of testing options. This is a third of the cost of some private testing companies. Testing is performed by a certified lab who works with us to offer this discounted rate.

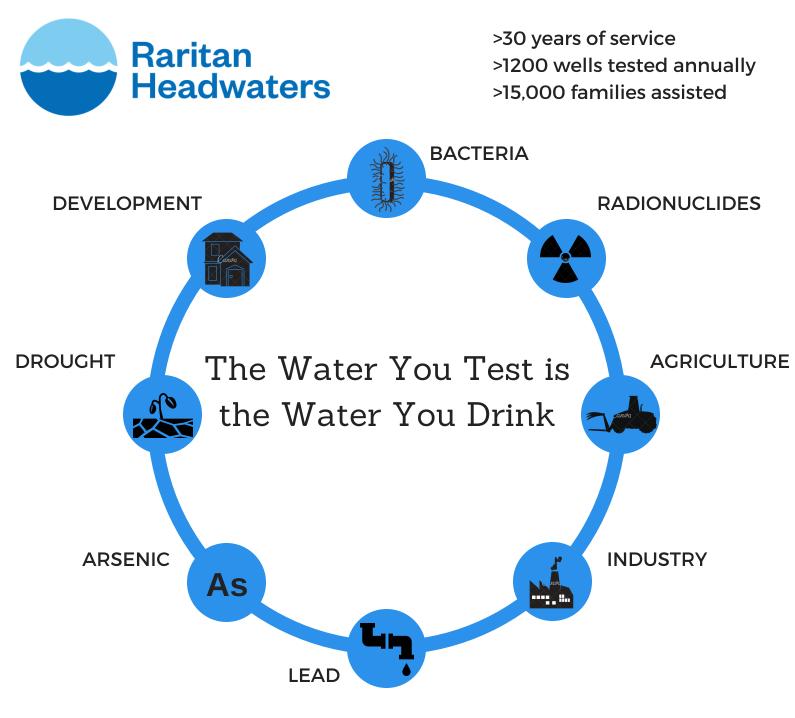
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#### Choice

Residents select parameters beyond the NJ DEP & US EPA recommended basics of coliform bacteria and nitrates thereby addressing their individual needs and health concerns. Testing for additional contaminants not required by the PWTA is also available.

### Crucial Differences

RHA is a non-profit agency whose mission is education and conservation, not a private entity with interests in promoting equipment or services.



#### WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER?

80% of the households in our region depend upon private wells for drinking water. While commercial water companies are required by law to test customers' water, owners of private wells are on their own. The US Environmental Protection Agency recommends that household water be tested once a year to ensure the well is free from harmful bacteria and nitrates. Testing can be expensive, but RHA has established a program that provides residents of the Raritan Headwaters region water tests by a state-certified lab at reasonable rates.