

## Take Care of Aquifers!

Groundwater in the BACOG area is of good quality and sufficient for human needs, at the moment. Water supply is not infinite, however, and clean water is not a guarantee. Computer models show that groundwater levels are falling, and we know certain contaminants such as chlorides have risen over the past few decades. Your personal actions contribute to the availability and cleanliness of water for future generations.

We know from BACOG studies where our water is located, how much there is, and which areas recharge (replenish) the aquifers. Zoning and building decisions can protect or impair groundwater recharge. Sensitive recharge areas, mapped by BACOG, are also pathways for potential contaminants to the aquifers.

The shallow aquifer system is a single, interconnected resource. Your well is likely drawing water from the same groundwater source as your neighbor's well.

How much water you use and how you protect water quality can affect not only your well but also your neighbors' wells and the supply of clean water for the region. We each have a stake in and responsibility for this precious resource – groundwater!

## Sign-up

To sign-up for testing go to [www.bacog.org/watertesting.html](http://www.bacog.org/watertesting.html) or scan the QR code below.



## Learn More

Want to learn more about the groundwater in your area? Go to [bacog.org/knowyourwater.html](http://bacog.org/knowyourwater.html) and explore what we have learned, through participants like you, about groundwater in the BACOG area.

## About BACOG

The Barrington Area Council of Governments is a regional planning organization whose members include the Villages of Barrington, Barrington Hills, Deer Park, Lake Barrington, North Barrington, South Barrington, and Tower Lakes, as well as Barrington and Cuba Townships.



Barrington Area Council of Governments  
118 Applebee Street  
Barrington, IL 60010  
(847) 381-7871  
[www.bacog.org](http://www.bacog.org)

# Know Your Water

Water Quality Edition



Barrington Area Council of Governments

# What's in YOUR Water?

Don't know much about  
your water?  
Get it tested!

## Level 1 Testing

This test is recommended annually for all private well owners. It tests your drinking water for coliform bacteria and nitrates. Public suppliers, such as some subdivisions and the Villages of Barrington and Tower Lakes, are required to test their water regularly. It is not necessary for residents on a public supply to test individually.

BACOG offers biannual Level 1 testing events, usually in the fall and spring. Each test kit costs only \$16 and is analyzed by our partner, the Lake County Health Department.

To learn about upcoming test dates go to [www.bacog.org/level1event.html](http://www.bacog.org/level1event.html)

Can't wait? Contact the Lake County Health Department (847-377-8020) or the McHenry County Board of Health (847-689-2700) to do your test now.

You tested for bacteria and nitrates, but other contaminants could be lurking in your drinking water. What to do? Test!

## Level 2 Testing

Level 2 tests for other water chemistry parameters such as sodium, fluoride, chloride, nitrate, hardness, alkalinity, arsenic, barium, and copper. Many of these are naturally occurring. It also tests the efficiency of your softener and/or reverse osmosis filter at removing these parameters.

Level 2 testing is recommended every 10 years or with a change of real estate. The Level 2 testing is analyzed by our partner, the Illinois State Water Survey. The test ranges from \$35-\$65.

Only a limited number of samples can be analyzed at one time through BACOG. To schedule your Level 2 test, go to [www.bacog.org/watertestinglevel2.html](http://www.bacog.org/watertestinglevel2.html).

## Level 3 Testing

The Level 3 test, also coordinated by BACOG, tests for harmful human-introduced contaminants, such as gasoline, cleaning solvents, pesticides, and insecticides.

Your sample will be analyzed by McHenry Analytical Water Laboratory. The cost for this test is approximately \$120. It is recommended every 10 years or when there is a real estate change.

Please call the BACOG office at (847) 381-7871 to schedule a Level 3 test.

## Why do all these tests?

You rely on the water in your home everyday. You drink it, brush your teeth with it, and shower in it. Be sure your drinking water is safe for you and your family by testing it regularly. It is up to the private well owner to maintain well water quality and safety. Know YOUR water — get it tested!

BACOG makes testing easy for you. BACOG supplies the kits and drives your sample to the laboratory. All you have to do is pick up and drop off your test kit at a designated local site, and BACOG takes care of the rest.