



BOARD OF HEALTH

13 Ayer Road
Harvard, MA 01451

PRIVATE WELL WATER SAMPLING AND QUALITY TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SALE OF PROPERTY

Updated: June 28, 2023

The Code of the Town of Harvard, Article II: Private Wells, adopted on December 11, 2018, and amended on October 8, 2019; March 22, 2021; November 9, 2021; states in part at §145-29:

- A. The Harvard Board of Health, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection certified laboratories, a Massachusetts Licensed Site Professional, an Approved Sampler, or other persons authorized by the Board of Health upon submittal and preapproval of a waiver, shall collect water samples immediately following construction or rehabilitation and disinfection of a well. A representative sample for laboratory analysis shall be collected at pump discharge or from a tap in the pump discharge line. Chemical and bacteriological analysis shall meet the standards set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Public Water Supply Division regulations for potable water for the following items: total coliform, fecal coliform/E.coli, arsenic, lead, nitrate nitrogen, nitrite nitrogen, Gross Alpha (uranium if necessary per Section I) and radon; approval of the results by the Harvard Board of Health or the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health shall be obtained before the well shall be put into service as a potable supply. All wells shall be tested for the following secondary standards: calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, potassium, sodium, alkalinity, ammonia, chloride, chlorine, color, conductivity, fluoride, hardness, odor, pH, sulphate, turbidity, and sediment.
- B. All drinking water wells located on property to be sold shall be similarly sampled using the untreated source and tested as described in § 145-18A. Certain addresses may also be required to test for PFAS per the Harvard Board of Health Policy: *Well water quality testing for property sales and new construction*. The analytical results must be submitted to the Board of Health no less than 30 days prior to the transfer of ownership, and are valid for 12 months from the sample date to the date of property transfer. All drinking water wells shall be retested at the time of sale and/or transfer of the property if standards are not met at initial testing and treatment is required.
- C. The water sample shall be analyzed by a laboratory certified to perform drinking water analysis by the Department of Environmental Protection, and a record of the results sent to both the Harvard Board of Health and the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health. Any fees for water testing will be charged and collected through the

Nashoba Associated Boards of Health prior to approval of water supply service.

- J. All treatment systems employed for the removal of a contaminant shall be a point of entry and whole supply system. Any use of a treatment system for the purposes of achieving compliance with any drinking water standard shall require retesting to demonstrate effectiveness and shall require notification of the property record at the Registry of Deeds of the existence and need for operational equipment in order to provide potable water.

Additionally, Harvard Board of Health Policy: *Well water quality testing for property sales and new construction*, revised February 28, 2023, also requires sampling and submittal of results for PFAS testing at all properties located on the streets and roads listed here:

Ayer Road (#184-361+)

Blanchard Road

Cedar Ledge Road

Craggs Road

Depot Road

Lancaster County Road

Mill Road

Old Mill Road

Prospect Hill Road (#0-50)

Pattee Road

Still River Depot Road

Under Pin Hill Road

The Policy further states that the Board of Health strongly recommends testing for PFAS in all other locations in Harvard.

Additionally, the Policy states that streets and roads may be added or deleted as necessary given the ongoing investigation of PFAS in the ground waters of Harvard and the surrounding towns.