

Step 1

Have you already been advised not to use your bore water or do you live in a ground water prohibition area?

If you're not sure, you can look up which **sites** are affected on the EPA website.

Testing may not be required if you have already been provided this advice.

Step 2

If you have not been advised not to use your bore, then a water quality test is recommended.

Bore water which is sourced through an underground aquifer may contain chemicals and micro-organisms that are potentially harmful.

The property owner is responsible for all safety aspects of bore water and it should not be used for human consumption until it has been tested for its microbiological (eg E coli) and chemical quality quantities (salt).

Testing is also recommended particularly for a new bore or if the previous history of an existing bore is unknown.

Step 3

Contact an accredited testing laboratory.

Testing of water samples should only be done by a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited analytical laboratory, such as those listed on the **SA Health website**, and advice sought about the most appropriate test to suit specific purposes.

Step 4

The laboratory will advise what to test for and how much it will cost, based on what you use the borewater for.

Bore water intended for drinking, cooking, use in swimming pools or for watering edible plants such as home-grown vegetables, should always be tested by a specialist laboratory and deemed safe before it is used for any of these purposes.

The cost may vary depending on what test is required but can start from around \$49.

Step 5

What do do when you get the test results.

When you get the results, if you don't understand them, contact **SA Health** for more advice.

If the levels of any chemical substances are detected do not use borewater for any purpose until further notice.

Mains water provided by SA Water and rainwater are not affected.

Step 6

Contact the EPA

For further assistance on bore water testing contact the EPA on (08) 8204 2004 or 1300 623 445 (country callers).

If you do detect chemical substances in your bore water, advise the EPA.