

Do I need to test my well?

A well test is not ALWAYS necessary. Here are typical reasons for testing a well:

- 1) In a real estate transaction it is important to establish that the quantity and quality of water is such that it will enable the potential buyer to develop the property, landscaping, garden or agriculture in the way they see fit. If the property has a well or spring on it, a yield test is to establish what type of flow is available. Water quality analysis can establish if the water is fit for consumption/agriculture or if there are any minerals that might stain plumbing fixtures or cause irrigation systems to plug up. Planting 10 acres of vineyard to later find out the well will only support 5 is not only a huge disappointment, but a waste of money! Contaminated water, stained fixtures and glass etched with silica can also be unwelcome surprises avoided by testing the water quality.*
- 2) Well yield tests are essential for those that rely on a well as their sole source of water. Performing well yield tests every 5-10 years can give critical information as to whether the well production is declining, if the well is getting plugged up or if the well is still performing optimally. This type of information helps facility managers & home owners as they plan for future water needs, well maintenance and water supply sustainability.*
- 3) Well tests help your pump contractor install the right pump for the job. There is no single well pump that fits all situations. By having information on the flow available and depth from which the water must be pumped at that flow rate, the right pump can be selected. Selecting the correct pump can have significant savings upfront (not buying more pump than your well can support) and long term power savings.*
- 4) If you are planning on building a new residence, Napa County will require a yield test on the well or spring to demonstrate sufficient water supply for the intended use & issue building permits.*

Well driller's reports often have the information necessary on the flow & drawdown of a given well. These reports are usually good at giving ballpark figures for flow & drawdown on a new well, but often don't reflect the actual flow rate from the well 10 years down the road or after a new well has been pumped for some period of time.