

Technical Guide to Well Water Mitigation Options for Massachusetts Private Well Households

You just got your lab report back and some things are over the limit. Don't panic — almost every failed private well in Massachusetts can be fixed and made safe. Here's exactly what the failed items mean and the proven, most common fixes that local well companies install every day.

What Failed on Your Test	Health or Practical Problem	The Fix That 95% of Massachusetts Homeowners Use	Approximate Installed Cost (2025 prices)
Arsenic	Cancer risk over many years	Two special filter tanks filled with “arsenic-eating” media (MetSorb or Bayoxide E33) installed in your basement or well house	\$2,800 – \$4,500
Cadmium, Mercury, Lead	Kidney or brain damage	Under-sink Reverse Osmosis (RO) system that is NSF-certified to remove heavy metals	\$400 – \$900
Nitrate or Nitrite	“Blue-baby syndrome” in infants	Nitrate-removal tank (looks like a water softener but uses special salt)	\$2,800 – \$4,200
Total Coliform or E. coli	Stomach bugs, serious risk if E. coli	1. Shock-chlorinate the well (one-time deep cleaning) 2. Install a whole-house UV light system with pre-filters	UV system \$1,400 – \$2,200 Shock chlorination \$350 – \$650
Iron or Manganese	Orange/black stains, metallic taste	Air-injection iron filter (backwashes itself automatically)	\$1,800 – \$3,200
Hardness (very hard water)	Scale on fixtures, dry skin, spotty dishes	Traditional salt-based water softener	\$1,500 – \$2,600
Copper	Green stains, bitter taste	The water softener above usually solves it	Included in softener price
Low pH (acidic water)	Blue-green stains, pinhole leaks in pipes	Automatic calcite neutralizer tank	\$1,200 – \$2,000
Fluoride	Mottled teeth in kids, bone issues at very high levels	Activated-alumina tanks or whole-house RO	\$2,000 – \$6,000
Chloride or Sodium (salty taste, high TDS)	Taste & corrosion	Whole-house Reverse Osmosis (big expense) or under-sink RO just for drinking/cooking	Whole-house \$6,000–\$10,000 Under-sink \$400–\$900

This resource was compiled by Pursuit Scientific, Inc. to help Massachusetts families navigate PFAS concerns. We have no financial relationship with any company mentioned. All information comes from public sources (MassDEP, NSF, peer-reviewed studies, etc. as of November 2025). Please verify current pricing, certifications, and performance with providers and always have your water re-tested after installation.

Most Common “Package” Systems We See Installed in MA

Your Main Problems	Typical Complete System Installed Together	Total Cost Range
Iron + Manganese + Hardness + Low pH	Calcite neutralizer → Air-injection iron filter → Water softener	\$4,500 – \$7,500
Arsenic only	Two arsenic media tanks in series	\$2,800 – \$4,500
Bacteria only	Shock chlorination + whole-house UV light with pre-filters	\$2,000 – \$3,000
Nitrate only	Nitrate-removal tank	\$2,800 – \$4,200
Lead + Fluoride + Nuisance stuff	Whole-house softener + under-sink RO for drinking	\$2,200 – \$3,800
Almost everything failed (metals + nitrate + bacteria)	Big system: oxidizing filter → softener → arsenic tanks → UV → under-sink RO	\$9,000 – \$14,000

Recommended Local Water Treatment Companies in Massachusetts

Based on your location in MA, here are some trusted, family-owned or established companies specializing in private well testing, filtration, and treatment. These are top-rated for residential wells (not big commercial firms). Call 2–3 for free quotes and share your lab report—they'll customize a plan. Most offer MassDEP-certified installs for UV and arsenic systems.

Company Name	Service Area	Specialties (Wells & Treatment)	Contact Info / Website	Why Recommended
Friot's Water Treatment Co.	Eastern MA & Southern NH	Well pump service, arsenic/iron filtration, UV systems, full custom installs	friots.com Phone: (978) 466-6400	50+ years local; excellent reviews for honest service and well-specific solutions
Skillings & Sons, LLC	Central/Southern MA & NH	Well drilling, filtration, geothermal, bacteria/iron treatment	skillingsandsons.com Phone: (603) 528-4900	50+ years family-owned; 75+ experts in MA wells; featured on This Old House
Clear Water Pump & Well Service	Eastern MA & RI	Whole-house filtration, RO, UV purification, well inspections	cwpsinc.com Phone: (508) 295-1212	15+ years; 11,000+ customers; top Google reviews for quick, reliable well fixes
SafeWell	Statewide MA, RI, Southern NH	Well testing, RO systems, arsenic/nitrate	safewell.us Phone: (978) 206-6326	8+ years; scientists & certified techs;

This resource was compiled by Pursuit Scientific, Inc. to help Massachusetts families navigate PFAS concerns. We have no financial relationship with any company mentioned. All information comes from public sources (MassDEP, NSF, peer-reviewed studies, etc. as of November 2025). Please verify current pricing, certifications, and performance with providers and always have your water re-tested after installation.

		removal, bacteria treatment		custom for bedrock/gravel wells
H2O Care	Eastern MA, NH, ME, RI	Water softeners, filtration, well/municipal testing, UV	h2ocare.com Phone: (800) 860-2450	Since 1989; thousands of installs; guarantees satisfaction
Northeast Water Wells, Inc.	Eastern/Central MA	Custom filtration/softeners, iron/manganese, hardness systems	wellguy.com Phone: (978) 466-5575	Well drilling + treatment focus; tailored to MA water issues
High Purity Water, Inc.	MetroWest MA (e.g., Stow, Grafton)	Arsenic RO/filtration, well service, emergency repairs	gohighpuritywater.com Phone: (508) 839-9300	Local experts in high-arsenic areas; factory-authorized service

Pro Tip: Search WellOwner.org for more near your town (wellowner.org/find-a-contractor/Massachusetts). Always verify they're licensed for wells (not just plumbing).

Next Steps – What to Do This Week

1. **Call 2–3 local water treatment companies** from the list above that specialize in private wells (not plumbers who “also do water”). Ask: “Can you look at my lab report and give me a free written quote for a whole-house system that will make every parameter pass?”
2. Make sure they are **MassDEP-approved** to install UV systems and have experience with the exact problem on your report (especially arsenic, nitrate, or bacteria).
3. Get the system quotes in writing and ask for references or photos of similar jobs.
4. If bacteria showed up — start using bottled water or boil water for drinking/cooking until the UV system is running.

You’ve already done the hardest part — testing the water. Fixing it is straightforward, and thousands of Massachusetts families drink clean well water every day with these exact systems.

This resource was compiled by Pursuit Scientific, Inc. to help Massachusetts families navigate PFAS concerns. We have no financial relationship with any company mentioned. All information comes from public sources (MassDEP, NSF, peer-reviewed studies, etc. as of November 2025). Please verify current pricing, certifications, and performance with providers and always have your water re-tested after installation.