



888-395-1033

wellcarehotline.org

Get Answers to your questions via phone, email, or chat!

- Is my water safe?
- How do I get my water tested?
- What should my water be tested for?
- Do I need a water treatment system?
- Who should I call for help?

Information available at wellcarehotline.org

- wellcare® Information Sheets - Information on over 90 well and water-related topics!
- Find certified water testing laboratories in your state or Canadian province
- Find licensed well contractors in your state
- State Emergency Agency contacts
- Well Owner's Manual - Download or contact us for your *FREE* copy for detailed information about your well system!

Join Our Well Owner's Network

- Membership is *FREE!*
- Quarterly newsletters with tips and tools to maintain your water well system and more...
- Call us to join, or sign up under *Well Owners Network* at wellcarehotline.org

My Local Resources

Your Well Contractor



Water Treatment Company

University Extension Office

Health Department

wellcare® Hotline
888-395-1033



National Programs Office
1101 30th Street, NW, Ste 500
Washington, DC 20007
202-625-4387

This publication was developed in part with funding from the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) under Assistance Agreement No. EPA-OW-OGWDW-15-02 awarded to RCAP Inc. by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It has not been formally reviewed by EPA. The views expressed in this document are solely those of WSC. EPA does not endorse any products or commercial services mentioned in this publication.

A Quick-Guide for Well Owners

*Simple Tips on Caring For Your
Water Well*

*Water Testing
Technical Concerns
Wellhead Protection
Well Maintenance*



Water Testing

When Should I Have My Water Tested?

Initially

- When a new well is drilled
- If there is no record of testing
- You are buying a home with a well

Annually

- At a minimum
- Spring is the best time to test

And...

- Before installing a treatment system
- Sudden change in taste, color, or odor
- Someone in the home is pregnant or nursing
- Failure of a septic system
- After a flooding event
- Someone in the home has a sudden, unexplained illness

What Should My Water Be Tested For?

At a minimum, test for the following common contaminants that can pose health risks:

Bacteria Most common contaminant

Nitrates Faulty septic systems & fertilizers

Lead From household plumbing

Arsenic Occurs naturally & was once a common ingredient in pesticides

This is not a complete list of recommended tests. Contact the wellcare® Hotline, local Health Department, or University Extension Office in your county for help with testing recommendations. Always consult with your physician for any health concerns.

Where Can I Have My Water Tested?

- Certified or Accredited Water Testing Laboratory: Find a laboratory near you watersystemscouncil.org/water-well-help/water-testing-by-state/
- Local Health Department
- University Cooperative Extension Office

Inspect & Protect

Inspect Your Well

Regularly inspect your wellhead for damage to the casing or well cap.

Contact a licensed well contractor to repair any damage immediately to reduce the potential for contamination.

Protect Your Well Water Supply

Store all chemicals at least 100 feet from your well.

Keep heavy equipment and vehicles off of your lawn and away from your well to avoid damage to buried water lines.

Allow only grass to grow around your well. Other plants can have longer roots that can damage your well casing.

Do not pile leaves, snow, or anything around your well, and consider adding a fiberglass marker to help with locating the well during fall and winter months.

To avoid well contamination, septic tanks should be pumped every 3-5 years based on use and family size.

Technical Concerns

No Power to Pump?

Do not reset the breaker, fuse, or pump controls. Most circuit breakers/fuses trip for a reason. The cause should be diagnosed by a licensed professional to ensure your safety and to avoid damage to your well equipment.

No Water or Low Pressure?

Possible causes include:

- Low water levels in well
- Leak in system piping
- Clogged filter or water line
- Faulty electrical controls
- Waterlogged pressure tank
- Faulty or worn well pump

Always Contact Your Licensed Well Contractor for Repairs

Maintain & Record

Records

Set a maintenance schedule to test your water and to inspect your well, water treatment, and septic systems.

Keep records of maintenance, test results, and repairs to help your contractor with future repairs.

*Contact the wellcare® Hotline for a copy of our **Well Owner's Manual** to help with your record keeping!*