



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**National Ground Water Association and Water Systems Council Members
Celebrate Drinking Water Week**

Washington, D.C. (May 4, 2008) – For the 42 million Americans who depend on private household wells for their drinking water, National Drinking Water Week is a good time to remember some basic steps to help protect the water supply for you and your family.

If you already own a water well:

- Get an annual well maintenance check-up by a qualified water well systems contractor to determine whether the well is clean and in good working order. Have your water tested annually for bacteria, nitrates and anything else of local concern. Check the water more frequently if there is a change in the water's taste, odor or appearance.
- Should any contaminants above levels of health concern remain after proper well maintenance, a water treatment device may resolve any water quality issues.
- Safely store and dispose of hazardous household substances. That means storing substances such as paints, motor oil, gasoline, pesticides, fertilizers, weed killers and cleaning products in sealed containers and secure places. Do not dispose of such substances by dumping them on the ground or pouring them down the drain or in the toilet. Check with local authorities about proper disposal of hazardous wastes.
- Use water wisely by not wasting it. That means fixing leaky faucets, installing low water-flow devices and low-water use appliances, and recycling water or capturing water for other purposes.

You can learn more about well maintenance, water testing, ground water protection and water conservation at the National Ground Water Association's Web site, www.wellowner.org and at the Water Systems Council's Website, www.watersystemscouncil.org.

For those considering a new well, use a qualified water well system contractor to properly locate and construct the well to minimize the potential for contamination of the water. You can find a National Ground Water Association certified- or member-contractor using the Contractor Lookup service on www.wellowner.org. Also, the Water Systems Council operates the wellcare® Hotline to answer questions about wells and well water. Call 1-888-395-1033 or visit www.wellcarehotline.org.

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