



Well Owners Network

NEWS

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Dear Well Owner,

Summer is upon us and with it brings special concerns about your well, namely the havoc that summer storms can wreak on your system. Thunderstorms often cause power outages that unfortunately can last for days and downpours produce floods that can easily damage an entire community's well system.

Therefore we are including several articles in this summer newsletter about how to handle power outages and flooding. You can also download a more detailed fact sheet with this information by logging on to www.watersystemscouncil.org, on the left click on Well Owners Network, then click on the tab that says "info sheets." You will find a wealth of information about these issues as well as many others that are important to well owners.

As always, we are including some "go green" ideas from some very creative thinkers.

We hope that you are enjoying your summer and remember to stay cool and hydrated by drinking fresh, clean water from your well.

Sincerely,

Water Systems Council -- the only national organization solely focused on wells and well water.

Quick Links

[Ask a Question](#)
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Did You Know?

September 14 is Protect Your Groundwater Day!

Flood Facts

Only flood insurance covers damage from floods; most homeowner's policies offer little or no protection.

Most flood insurance policies take 30 days to go into effect. Don't wait until waters rise to apply.

Flooding can happen anywhere. Approximately 25% of all flood claims come from moderate to low risk areas.

A few inches of water can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. The average flood claim was almost \$27,000 in 2009.

Policies can be surprisingly affordable. The

Prepare for Power Outages

Summer is a time when we can expect thunderstorms to pop up - which means that there are several times a year we can expect to lose power. When the electric power supply is interrupted, so is the service provided by your well pump. You will need an alternate source to supply your water.

The average family of four uses approximately 300 gals per day or 75-80 gals per person per day (inside use only).

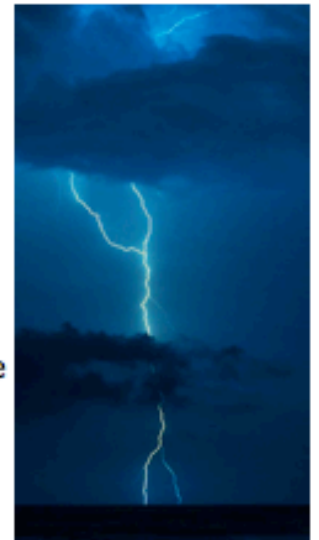
In an emergency, they can manage on 120 gallons, mainly to provide water for drinking and flushing toilets manually.

A bulk storage or water retention tank can be added to your well to supply water when power fails. The tank is usually installed next to your pneumatic water storage tank which operates on electricity. Water flows continually through the bulk storage tank, so the water is fresh when needed. Simple gravity allows the storage tank to operate when the power is off.

An alternative to a retention tank would be a gas or diesel-powered electricity generator that will keep your well operating in an emergency. You can purchase a small portable generator to operate the submersible pump on your water tank. To determine what size generator you might need, go to www.phaseconverter.com/selectionform.html, which features a list of wattage requirements to operate household appliances and systems.

If you do not have one of these precautions in place, make advance plans to ensure a safe drinking supply for you and your family. Try to store at least four gallons of water for every household member. Remember to replenish these supplies every three to four months to keep the water fresh.

Once power is restored, run your tap for a few minutes to ensure the lines are clear and only fresh water is coming through the system. If the water shows any discoloration, odd odors, or signs of contamination, use an alternative source and have your water tested before using again.



average flood insurance premium is \$566 per year, and can be as low as \$119 a year in moderate to low risk areas.

WSC is National Sponsor of Protect Your Groundwater Day

WSC joins NGWA and other national groups in promoting the first Protect Your Groundwater Day on Sept. 14, 2010. We urge you to ACT -- Acknowledge, Consider, Take Action -- to do your part in protecting one of our most important natural resources - groundwater!

Acknowledge the causes of preventable groundwater contamination;

Consider which apply to you;

Take action to prevent groundwater contamination.

For more information, contact Rita Wayco, Senior Program Manager, Water Systems Council, via email at rwayco@watersystemscouncil.org, or call 202-625-4387.



After the Flood: WellCare® Information



From California to Maine, our country has seen many floods this year. In fact, floods are one of the most common hazards we face. Flood effects can be local, impacting a neighborhood or community, or regional, affecting entire river basins and multiple states. Every state is at

risk from flooding.

If you live in an area that has recently flooded, your private well may be in danger of contamination from pollutants carried by floodwater, or at risk of shock from waterlogged well equipment. The EPA offers the following guidelines for private well owners after a flood:

- Do not drink or wash with well water.
- Do not turn on the well pump, as you are at risk of electrical shock or damaging your well or pump if flooded.
- Contact your well professional to access your water quality and well system.

You should suspect water contamination any time your well casing becomes flooded, if your well is shallow and you are near areas that have flooded, or if you notice taste, color, or sediment changes in your water. Even if floodwaters did not rise over the top of your well casing, your neighbor's well may have been flooded, allowing contamination to migrate underground to your well.

If tests indicate your well is contaminated, you should have the well and the entire plumbing system disinfected. A licensed well driller or pump installer has the equipment, materials, and expertise to eliminate bacterial contamination.

You may do this yourself if you carefully follow the directions on the wellcare® information sheet [Disinfecting Your Well](#), which offers a step-by-step guide. Always have your water quality tested a second time after it is treated with chlorine or any other process.

The professionals should also check the well system for any debris that may have accumulated and the control box to ensure all fittings are dry before restoring service.

For more information on managing a flooded well visit www.epa.gov/safewater/consumer/whatdo.htm.

WON Partners with WaterSense

The Well Owners Network under the Water Systems Council is a partner with WaterSense. WaterSense is an EPA sponsored program that "seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by promoting water efficiency and enhancing the market for water efficient products, programs, and practices."



Since 1950, the U.S. population has doubled and our use of water through public water supplies has almost tripled. This demand on this finite resource has at least 36 states projecting some degree of water shortage in the very near future.

Therefore, this summer WaterSense is kicking off a new national campaign *We're for Water*, which promotes making simple changes to save water at home. Given that each American uses an average of 100 gallons of water every day, it's easy to trim a few gallons off your usage with three simple steps: Check, Twist, and Replace.

First, check for leaks around your house. To check your toilet for leaks that you may not have noticed, add a few drops of food coloring to the tank and wait 10 minutes before flushing. If any color appears in your bowl, your toilet has a leak that will need repair.

Second, twist on a WaterSense approved aerator onto faucets and use 30 percent less water with no difference in pressure. Faucet aerators can save a household more than 500 gallons a year.

Third, replace old showerheads with a water efficient WaterSense labeled model. Making this switch can save a household 2,300 gallons of water annually and saves enough energy from heating less water to power a television for a year.

Many WaterSense approved products can be found in your local home center. Look for the WaterSense logo. Be a part of the *We're for Water* campaign and help conserve our water resources.

wellcare® Tips: "Going" Green

Going Green can happen just about anywhere, including the bathroom. For years, manufacturers have produced toilets that require less water with each flush. Now inventors have some new ideas for the toilet that go beyond just saving water.

The *SinkPositive* combines your toilet with a hand washing station. A sink is retrofitted on top of your existing toilet. Upon flushing, fresh water from the supply line comes out of the faucet while the user washes his or her hands. The amount of water is the same as when a toilet tank gets refilled, but the "grey water" is drained from the sink into the bowl, which is reused when the next person uses the bathroom. Not only does this save water by not requiring separate hand washing in another sink, but wastewater is reused, and it promotes more hand washing!



Leaking toilets waste water and can cause major property damage. With the *H2Orb*, your toilet is protected. This electronic valve monitoring system has a sensor in the bowl that recognizes when the water level in the bowl is too high, at which point it shuts off the water and alerts the owner of the leak with an alarm and an icon on the LCD screen. A second sensor can be attached underneath the toilet bowl to monitor a potential overflow and proactively shut off water to the tank.

Want a new look for your toilet? The *Fish and Flush* is a two piece aquarium toilet tank that brings the beauty of the sea into the bathroom. This inventive piece operates like a normal aquarium. It has a 2.5 gallon tank for fish and an inner tank that connects to the toilet. It can hold fresh or salt water fish and promises to entertain all that use it.

Do Your Doody!



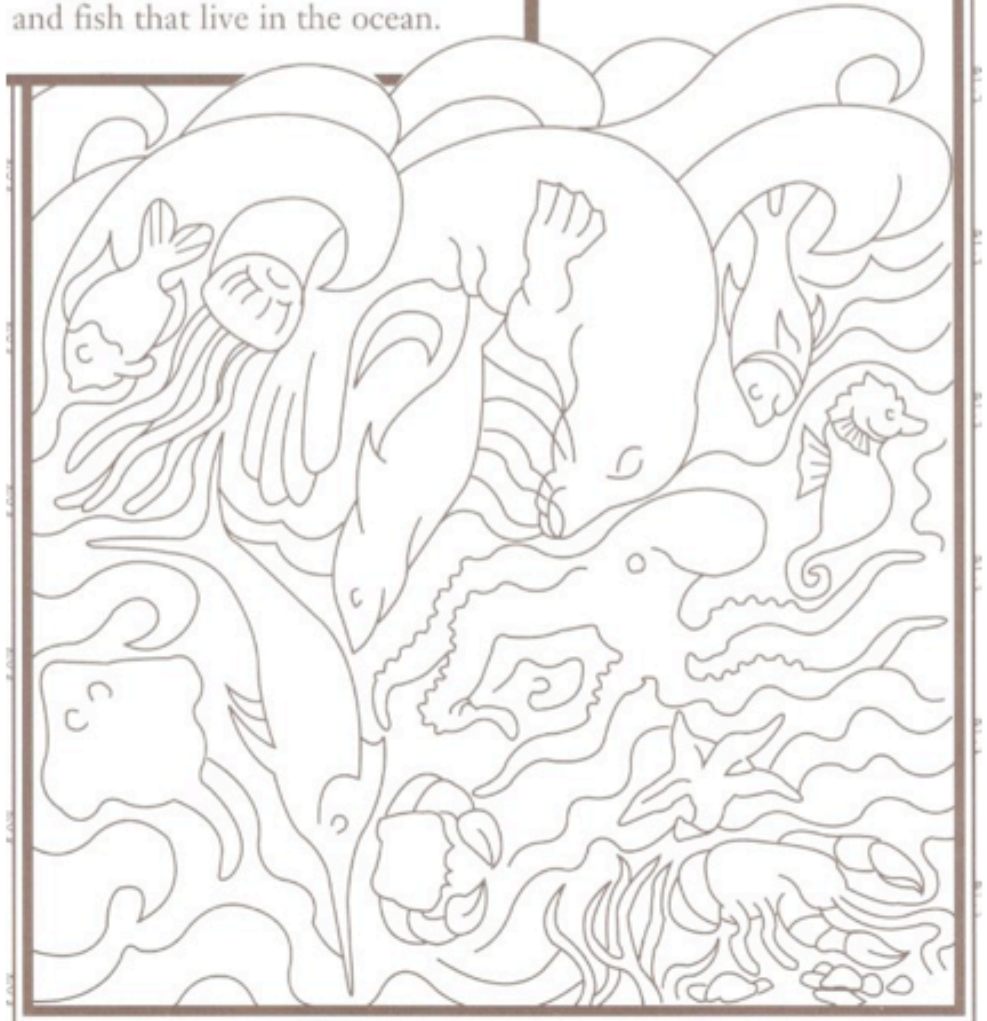
Did you know there are more than 77 million pet dogs in the United States? We Americans love our dogs, and with that comes the responsibility to scoop their poop! Yes, your neighbors will appreciate the effort, but what is even more important is that you will be keeping harmful microorganisms away from our drinking water supply.

Dog waste is often scattered across backyards, in neighborhood parks, and along public greenways that are in close proximity to small waterways. If you don't clean up after your pet, rain can carry bacteria into storm drains and local streams that then empty into sources of drinking water. Parasites and bad microorganisms like roundworms and e coli can be transmitted to humans if it gets into the drinking supply.

As a dog owner, do your "duty" to scoop that poop and dispose of it in your trash. Better in the landfill than in the lakes and streams where we boat and fish, or the drinking water that comes into your home.

Kids Corner: Color the Critters

The oceans have salt water.
People cannot drink salt water.
Outline and color the animals
and fish that live in the ocean.



**Save
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In our last newsletter, we reminded you that it was time to test your water. WSC has entered into a new partnership with another source for test packages, National Testing Laboratories. Go to www.watercheck.com or call 800-458-3330 to purchase your kits and get a discount and/or free shipping when you enter the coupon code "WSC".