

wellcare® information for you about

Where Your Water Comes From

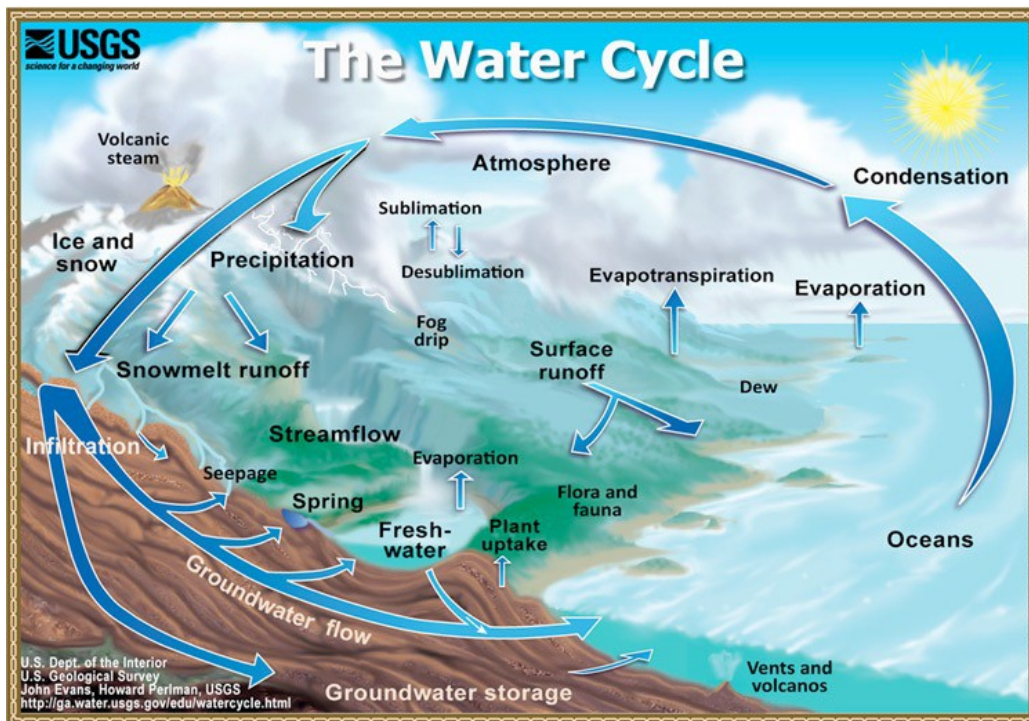
Groundwater is used for drinking water by more than 50 percent of the people in the United States, including those with private wells and public water customers. Groundwater is a renewable, reliable resource for cool, pure water.

Groundwater from deep, drilled wells is naturally filtered and less likely to be contaminated than surface water in lakes and rivers. Deep, drilled wells recharge themselves and can provide a constant, steady supply of water even during bouts of dry weather.

What is Groundwater?

Groundwater, which accounts for 30 percent of the world's fresh water, occurs below the ground, where it is filtered and purified naturally as it passes through layers of the earth. Groundwater is stored in aquifers – layers of soil, sand and rocks – but can come to the surface naturally through a spring or brought to the surface through a well. More than 43 million people in the U.S. depend on individual wells for their drinking water.

Water on the earth is constantly moving. The water cycle, pictured below, describes the continuous movement of water on, above and below the surface of the Earth. Water can change states (liquid, vapor and ice) at various stages of the water cycle.



When water falls as rain, hail or snow, some of it collects as surface water. The rest seeps into the earth to become groundwater. Groundwater flows slowly underground and emerges again as surface water. Evaporation of surface water takes place and the cycle starts again.

Steps You Should Take to Protect Your Groundwater and Well Water

- Maintain your well.
- Keep household chemicals and paint away from your well and dispose of them properly. Take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Limit your use of pesticides and fertilizers.
- Install a well cap and keep it clear of leaves, mulch, dirt, snow or other materials.
- Be careful when you mow around your well so you don't damage the well casing.
- And remember... even though your well can meet all the water needs of a modern household, it is important to conserve water to protect the nation's ground water resources.

For more information on Groundwater

Your local well contractor, health department, cooperative extension service and state environmental or natural resources agency can provide you with more information about groundwater in your area. For help with locating these agencies, contact the wellcare® Hotline or check the local telephone directory.

The Groundwater Foundation. The Basics. What is groundwater?

<http://www.groundwater.org/get-informed/basics/whatis.html>

Nebraska Real-Time Groundwater Monitoring Network. World Water Distribution.

<http://snr.unl.edu/data/water/groundwater/realtime/waterdistribution.aspx>

FOR MORE INFORMATION to help you maintain your well and protect your water supply



wellcare® is a program of the **Water Systems Council (WSC)**. WSC is the only national organization solely focused on protecting the health and water supply of the 43 million people nationwide who depend on household wells for their water supply.

This publication is one in a series of wellcare® information sheets. There are more than 90 information sheets available FREE at www.watersystemscouncil.org.

Well owners and others with questions about wells or groundwater can also contact the FREE wellcare® Hotline at 1-888-395-1033 or visit www.wellcarehotline.org.

JOIN THE WELLCARE® WELL OWNERS NETWORK!

By joining the FREE wellcare® Well Owners Network, you will receive regular information on how to maintain your well and protect your well water.

Contact us at 1-888-395-1033 or visit www.wellcarehotline.org to join!