



888-395-1033

www.wellcarehotline.org

Fall

Volume 3, Issue 4

In support of "Protect Your Groundwater Day" on September 13, 2011, WSC wellcare® Well Owners Network has dedicated this entire newsletter to doing just that – PROTECTING GROUNDWATER!

For more information on Protect Your Groundwater Day visit www.ngwa.org.

Let's Keep It Clean!

Groundwater is important to all of us. It's the water we drink, it grows the food on our table, and it nourishes our communities. Because we all benefit from groundwater, let's keep it clean! This newsletter will guide you through what you can do to protect this necessary resource now and for future generations.

Maintenance, along with proper location and construction, is essential to ensuring your drinking water is safe. Contamination of well water supplies generally occurs when polluted surface water or septic system discharges seep into the groundwater. Human activity can also play a role in unnecessary pollution. Practices such as annual checkups, regular testing and keeping household contaminants and farming chemicals a safe distance from water supplies greatly reduce your risk from drinking potentially unsafe water. Here are some tips to help you protect your water supply.

Well Construction

- Visually inspect exposed parts of the well – Make sure there are no cracks, or damaged to the well cap or casing. Ensure the area around the wellhead slopes to drain surface runoff away from the well and that it is free of leaves, branches, and other debris.
- Install a well cap or sanitary seal to prevent unauthorized use of, or entry into the well.
- Do not cut off the well casing below the land surface. Your wellhead should be at least 12 inches from the ground surface.
- Seal abandoned wells – Abandoned and improperly constructed wells can be sources of potentially polluted groundwater, which could make your drinking water unsafe.
- Hire a certified well contractor for any new well construction, modification, or abandonment and closure.



Let's Keep It Clean on YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8fvG7YErFU>

50 Ways Farmers Can Protect Groundwater

<http://www.thisland.illinois.edu/50ways/50ways.html>

57 Ways to Protect Your Home Environment

<http://www.thisland.illinois.edu/57ways/57ways.html>

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Sept 6 2:00-3:00 pm

Cost: FREE

Emergencies & Disasters and Wells

Sept 12 2:00-3:00 pm

Cost: FREE

Water & Health: The CDC Private Drinking Water Well Initiative

Registration required. To view the 2011 WSC Webinar Schedule and Register, visit:

<https://student.gototraining.com/492k4/catalog/7344658842665048064>

Questions?

Contact: Rita Wayco at 202-625-4387 or rwayco@watersystemscouncil.org

Water Testing

Private well owners are responsible for ensuring that their wells are constructed to local and state standards and for testing their water regularly to confirm that it is free of any natural or man-made impurities.

- Test your water annually. You should test your water immediately if you notice a change in the color, odor or taste of your water or if anyone in the household has an unexplained illness or is pregnant or nursing.
- Hire a state certified laboratory for water testing. To obtain a list of state certified laboratories in your area visit - <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/drinkingwater/labcert/statecertification.cfm> or contact the wellcare® Hotline at 1-888-395-1033.

Keep record of all well maintenance, repairs, and water testing. WSC wellcare® Well Owners Network members can get a **FREE** wellcare® records folder by calling the wellcare® Hotline at 1-888-395-1033.

Water Conservation and Protection

Water conservation is becoming an ever-growing necessity throughout the world today as the availability of drinking water constantly diminishes through events such as drought, contamination and an increase in population. The average home in the US consumes about 80-100 gallons of water per person per day. Nearly 14 percent of that water is wasted. Conserving and protecting this limited resource is essential in ensuring an adequate supply of water for all your needs as well as for future generations.

- Check for leaky faucets and have them fixed.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator for drinking.
- Shut off the water while brushing your teeth and shaving.
- Take shorter showers.
- Run the clothes washer and dishwasher with full loads only.
- Water lawn and plants only as needed. Most established lawns and gardens need just one hour of deep watering once a week to remain healthy.

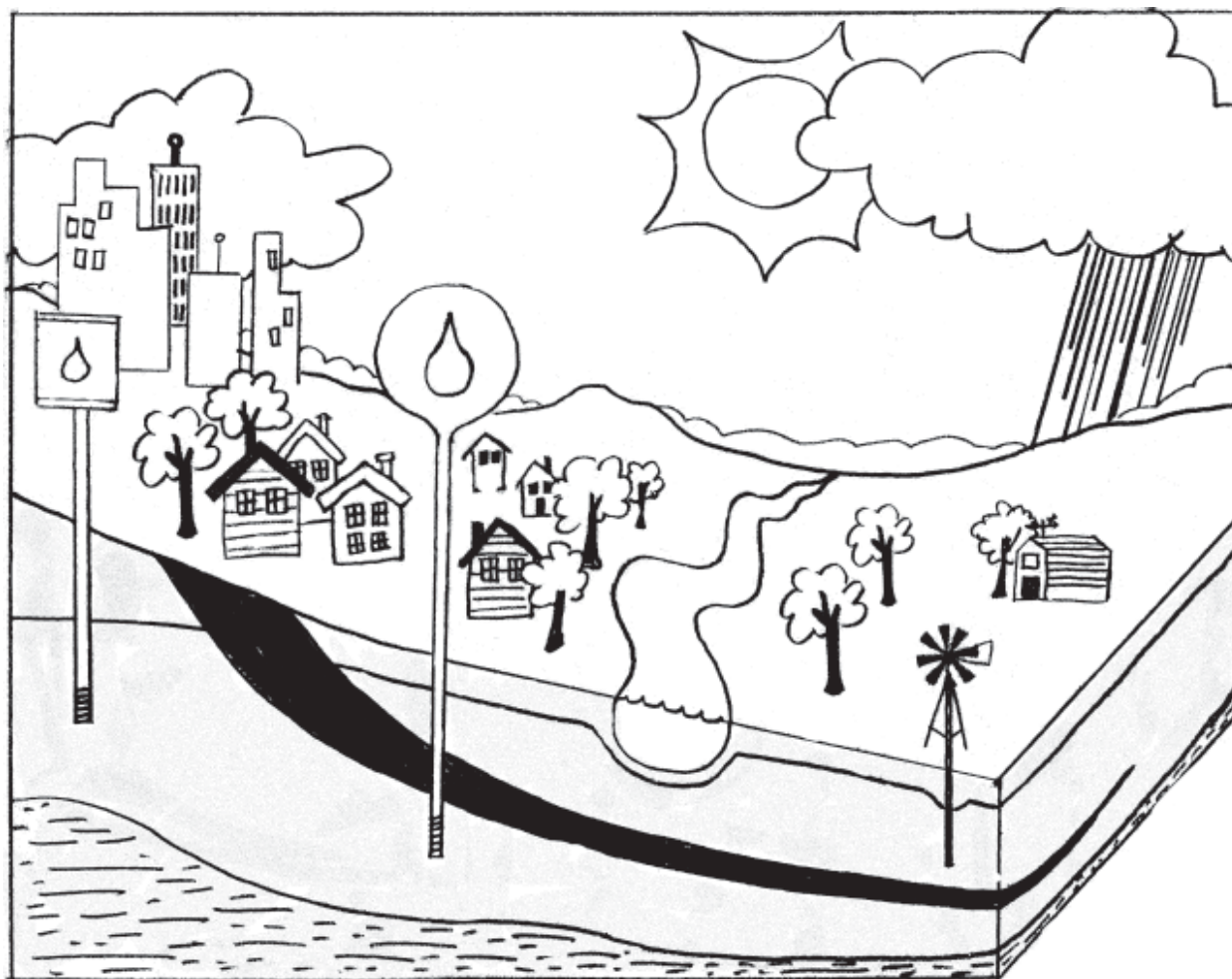
For more conservation ideas view our wellcare® information sheet – *Water Conservation* at www.watersystemscouncil.org/infoSheets.php.

- Avoid mixing or using pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, degreasers, fuels, and other pollutants near the well. Store these products at least 100 feet from your water well system.
- Pump and inspect septic systems as often as recommended by your septic service or local health department.
- Never dispose of harsh chemicals, solvents, petroleum products, pesticides or pharmaceuticals down the drain/toilet, in a dry well or septic system. Take unused portions to a hazardous waste collection site.

Try using biodegradable or environmentally friendly pesticides and fertilizers. Or check with your local health department or waste management for hazardous waste acceptance sites to dispose of unused products. Oil based paints are accepted at most, but water based paint can be thrown in the garbage once hardened. Many pharmacies offer take-back programs for pharmaceuticals. If there are no disposal options, you can alter the medications to make them undesirable or unusable. Try adding kitty litter, coffee grounds or spices like mustard or turmeric to liquid medications and water to pills. Pharmaceuticals for pets should be handled the same as for humans.

For more information on properly disposing of pesticides and fertilizers view our wellcare® information sheet at www.watersystemscouncil.org/infoSheets.php.

Kids Place: Groundwater and You!



Thanks to The Groundwater Foundation www.groundwater.org

COLOR THE GROUNDWATER USES

And don't forget to draw yourself, because you use groundwater too!

Each of us is touched everyday by groundwater. Groundwater is used to:

- Irrigate the crops used to put food on our tables
- Nourish fragile ecosystems such as wetlands and feed rivers, streams and lakes
- Clean our bodies, clothes, and homes
- Supplement our recreational activities
- And, most importantly, to hydrate our bodies.

Kids can protect groundwater too! See what you can do to help at

<http://www.groundwater.org/ta/kidsprotect.html>

Help Droplet through the water cycle at – <http://kids.earth.nasa.gov/droplet.html>

Avoid pitfalls and predators while you navigate through several challenging levels of the hydrological cycle.

Thanks to the following websites:

<http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/well/fag.cfm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/private/wells/maintenance.html>

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/well-water/well-maintenance-tips.html>

DID YOU KNOW?

1.5 billion people worldwide depend on groundwater for drinking water.

Of the world's water that is usable by humans, 98% is stored in aquifers as groundwater.

Spread the word!

Receive a FREE gift when you refer family, friends and neighbors to join our Well Owners Network!
To sign up visit: www.watersystemscouncil.org/wellcare-network.php or contact us at 888-395-1033.

GOT EMAIL?

In effort to keep our newsletter
"green" please provide your email
address, along with name and
phone number to Charlene Greenstreet at
888-395-1033 or
cgreenstreet@watersystemscouncil.org.

Thank you for continuing your
subscription to our e-Newsletter!

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