



888-395-1033 wellcare® Hotline  
[www.wellcarehotline.org](http://www.wellcarehotline.org)

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## HAPPY SPRING!

*From the wellcare® Well Owners Network*

### **It's that time again...for your annual well maintenance that is!**

The safety and purity of your drinking water and the efficient operation of your private well system depends on a well-organized maintenance program. Protect your investment through regular inspection, testing and repair.

#### **Create a Well Maintenance Log**

The first step in properly maintaining your water system is creating a well maintenance log. Gather information on the history of your well system and water quality from the well log (also known as a water well record or drilling report). If you don't have a copy, ask your well contractor or contact your local health department.

The well log will include a reference number for the well, original site owner, location of the well, construction and contractor details, as well as the results from any water tests.

The well log should help establish the location, age and condition of the well. This information will provide the basis on which to schedule regular tests of water quality and inspections of well equipment, as well as regular maintenance and repairs.

#### **Set a Well Maintenance Schedule**

### Highlights In This Issue

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### Upcoming Events

**Earth Day**  
**April 22, 2013**  
[Website](#)

**Drinking Water Week**  
**May 5-11, 2013**  
[Website](#)

**World Environment Day**  
**June 5, 2013**  
[Website](#)

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Plan for the maintenance of the wellhead, well system, water quality, water treatment devices and septic system.

### **Well Inspection**

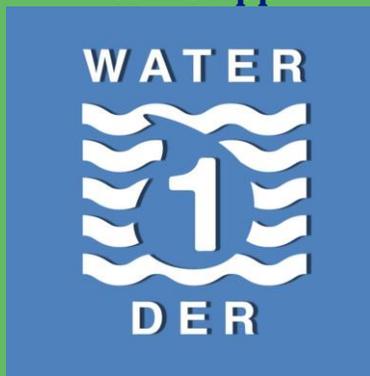
- Inspect your wellhead several times a year. Check the condition of the well covering, casing and well cap to make sure all are in good repair, leaving no cracks or other entry points for potential pollutants.
- Have the well system, including the pump, storage tank, pipes and valves, and water flow, inspected every 10 years by a qualified well contractor.
- If you have no inspection record and cannot determine the age of the well, have it inspected immediately by a well contractor.
- When your well reaches the end of its serviceable life, usually more than 20 years, contact your well contractor to install a new system and properly close the old well.

### **Water Testing**

- Test drinking water immediately if you have no recent test results or any record of previous tests.
- Test drinking water for bacteria every year. Also, test annually for nitrates if you live in an agricultural area or have an on-site septic system. The best time to perform these annual tests is in the spring.
- Test if you notice any change in the taste, color or odor of your water.
- Test more than once a year in special situations: someone in the household is pregnant or nursing; there are unexplained illnesses in the family; your neighbors find a dangerous contaminant in their water; or there is a spill of chemicals or fuels into or near your well.
- Test after disinfection, within one or two weeks, to make sure the water is pure.
- Test after any flooding in or near the well, to determine if flood water carried bacteria or other contaminants into the well system.

Contact your local health department, cooperative extension office, private testing laboratory or state

### **NEW! Groundwater Awareness Trivia Game App**



The Groundwater Foundation has launched "Water1der", a mobile groundwater awareness trivia game app, developed by SectorNow's CleanEarthApps Division. The app is available **FREE** of charge from the Apple store. The game is designed to educate everyone about our most precious resource - water!

environmental agency for other water testing guidelines and for test kits. Also, review the Water Systems Council wellcare® information sheets "Drinking Water Testing" and "Drinking Water Treatments."

### Water Treatment System

- Test drinking water before installing any water treatment device.
- Test water every year to make sure the device is working properly.
- Follow the inspection and maintenance schedule provided by your water treatment device manufacturer or water treatment company.

Review the Water Systems Council wellcare® information sheet "Home Drinking Water Treatments" and "Well Water Treatments and Costs."

### Septic System Testing

- Inspect the septic tank each year for capacity and leaks.
- Pump out the tank as needed, usually every three to five years, based on the number of people in the household and the size of the tank.
- Repair the tank or drainfield system as needed to prevent leaks of bacteria and nutrients into the drinking water.

A poorly maintained septic systems poses a serious threat to the quality of your drinking water and can require expensive repairs. The cost of pumping a septic tank is far less than the expense of replacing a drainfield clogged by solids.

For more information on "Well Maintenance" click the image below:



## Spring Cleaning: Environmentally Friendly Practices to Improve the Health and Appearance of Your Home and Garden

### Lawn and Garden

#### Quick Tips:

- Feed your soil with compost; make compost at home, or buy it in bags or bulk. Compost helps sandy soils hold nutrients and water, loosens clay soils, and feeds the organisms that are beneficial to soil.
- Mow higher and leave the clippings. Modern mulching lawn mowers make "grasscycling" even easier. Homeowners can reduce their mowing time by 30 to 40 percent by not having to bag clippings.
- Choose the right plant for the right place. Select plants that grow well in your area of the country and fit the amount of sun, type of soil and water available in your yard.
- Give plants a good start. Prepare the soil by mixing one to three inches of compost into soil in planting beds.
- Water deeply, but infrequently. Most plants do best if the soil is allowed to partially dry out between waterings.

For more ideas click [here](#) .

### At Home

#### Quick Tips:

- Reduce food waste by using up the food you already bought and have in the house instead of buying more. You already paid for it - so use it!
- Non-perishable and unspoiled perishable food can be donated to local food banks, soup kitchens, pantries, and shelters.
- Reuse items around the house such as rags and wipes, empty jars and mugs, party decorations, and gift wrap.

- Buy products in concentrate, bulk, and in refillable containers. They reduce packaging waste and can save you money!
- Return used car tires to retailers or wholesalers that recycle or retread them. Tires are banned from most landfills, and illegally dumped tires become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other pests.
- When buying products, check the labels to determine an item's recyclability and whether it is made from recycled materials. Buying recycled encourages manufacturers to make more recycled-content products available.

For more ideas click [here](#) and [here](#).

### Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

#### Quick Tips:

- Properly store any unused paint for future use, donate unused paint to neighbors or charities, or turn in your used paint to a waste collection facility for recycling.
- Buy products that contain minimal amounts, or no, hazardous ingredients. Use alternative methods or products - without hazardous ingredients - for common household needs, such as making a household cleaning solution from 1 cup of warm water, 3 drops of vegetable-based liquid soap, 1 teaspoon of baking soda, and 1 tablespoon of white vinegar.
- Products that contain hazardous ingredients should be used and stored properly to prevent accidents in the home. Never store hazardous products in food containers; keep them in their original containers and never remove labels. Corroding containers may require special handling. Call your local hazardous materials official or fire department for instructions.
- Recycle or safely dispose of your HHW.

To find a recycle location in your area visit:

<http://www.earth911.org/>

For information on how to properly dispose of fertilizers and pesticides view our information sheet [here](#).

## Industry News

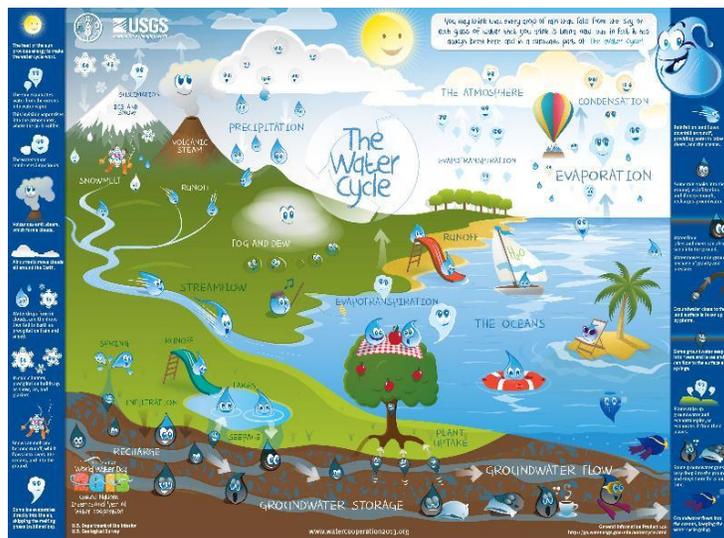
**COMING SOON!**

**A new wellcare® information sheet with updated facts and frequently asked questions on the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act.**

## Kids Place: Explore The WaterCycle!

Learn about our precious resources through The WaterCycle.

Click image to view larger version on web page.



## The Water Smoothie

Just add water and enjoy!



## Q & A from the wellcare®Hotline

Question: How do I locate a water well contractor in my area?

Answer: Contact your local health department for a referral. Most states have a Water Well or Groundwater Association that may also be able to provide a referral. If you need assistance contact the wellcare® Hotline at 1-888-395-1033.

Click image to be directed to our web page:



*Previous newsletters with additional tips can be found [here](#).*

*WSC has over 80 different wellcare® information sheets that can help you and your family learn more about managing a water well and protecting your water supply. Visit our [website](#) or contact the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033.*