



## YOUR WINTER WATER WELL NEWS

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

Winter 2015  
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### Dear Well Owners Network Member,

Happy New Year! We would like to thank you for continuing your subscription with the wellcare® Well Owners Network. Don't forget to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) for extra tips, news, and more! As always, if you have questions on any of these topics, the wellcare® Hotline can help. Contact the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033 or [www.wellcarehotline.org](http://www.wellcarehotline.org).

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Inspect Your Well

**January is**  
**National Radon**  
**Action Month**

Have you tested your air  
and water for radon?

## Protecting Your Well Throughout the Winter

Winter is here! So far the weather has been pretty mild throughout the U.S. However, we have several months of winter ahead of us. The wellcare® Hotline has fielded calls regarding freezing of wells. If your well or pipes freeze, contact your water well professional or local plumber as soon as possible. If you are in an area that tends to reach freezing temperatures, you should make every effort to prevent the risk of your pipes from freezing, including your well casing.

When pipes freeze the flow of water is completely blocked. As water expands as it turns

Radon can be found all over the U.S. You can [view state specific information](#) . You can't see, smell, or taste radon, but it may be a problem in your home and water system. Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon. EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes at the lowest level for radon. Testing is inexpensive and easy - it should only take a few minutes of your time.

Contact your [state radon office](#) to locate a certified laboratory in your area that can perform radon testing or contact the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033 for assistance.

In addition, ETR Laboratories provides inexpensive [radon air and water testing](#).

Or, contact ETR Laboratories at 800-344-9977 and mention Water Systems Council to receive a discount.

[Additional information on Radon and Air.](#)

[Additional information on Radon & Groundwater.](#)

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into ice, the pipes are very likely to burst. It could also ruin your well pump. This can be an expensive problem to fix, and a disastrous occurrence in frigid winter months. Both hot and cold water pipelines alike can freeze. So be sure to protect both.

Most well pumps are down inside your well, so you will be protecting the well casing that is exposed (above ground) and your pipes. You can insulate your well casing and pipes with foam rubber sleeves or fiberglass insulation, wrapping the insulating material around the casing and pipes. For extra protection in the areas of your home that are not heated, such as a crawl space or basement area, pipes may first be wrapped with special heating strips, and then outer insulation wrapped on top. For assistance contact a licensed plumber in your area.

If your home has faucets that are attached to the outside of your home, you may have a shutoff valve somewhere on the pipe on the interior of your home. Turn off the water at this valve for the duration of the winter. If you do not have this type of valve, consider having one installed. Switch the valve shut, then open the outside valve to drain out the remaining water. This will protect the pipes that lead to the outdoors from freezing.

Try to spot any trouble with your pipes before it's too late, keeping an eye out for signs that may signify your pipes are beginning to freeze. For instance, is the water pressure becoming reduced? Note: If you notice this problem prior to cold months, this is not a sign of pipes freezing. Contact your water well professional for assistance.

If there is a cold spell and you fear your pipes are going to freeze despite the efforts you have taken, there is still one more trick. Leave one of your faucets, farthest from your home's water supply, open and running slightly. If the water is running, it will be less likely to freeze.



## wellcare® Information Sheet on *Drought and Your Well*



Click image to view.

## **New!** **ENERGY STAR® Home Advisor**

With the ENERGY STAR® Home Advisor, you can create a profile of your home's energy efficiency features and get a prioritized list of energy-

For more information on protecting your well, contact your local water well professional or the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033.



The 17th Annual National  
Groundwater Awareness Week  
will take place  
**March 8-14, 2015**



Groundwater is important as it supplies the water in your well! As precipitation falls, this water seeps into the soil downward to fill cracks and openings in rock and sand. Your well pumps this water into your well to supply your home. Groundwater Awareness Week reminds us to take care of groundwater and your water well system. [Read more.](#)

Mark Your Calendars for  
**Fix a Leak Week**

saving recommendations customized to your home. Visit the [ENERGY STAR® website](#) to get started.

## Do you have questions about your well or well water?



Contact the **wellcare® Hotline** at **888.395.1033** OR [wellcarehotline.org](http://wellcarehotline.org).

**March 16-22, 2015**



**Did you know?** Household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide! Fix those leaks and start saving valuable water and money all year long. [Learn how](#)

Previous newsletters with additional tips can be found [on our website](#).

WSC has over 90 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.

 Forward to a Friend

STAY CONNECTED

