



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

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Dear Well Owners Network Member:

It's here! Your fall newsletter of course! But that's not all....we have jam-packed this newsletter to take you from summer to winter! Oh yes, winter is coming. So we want to make sure you are prepared. Remember to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) for extra tips, industry news, and more! As always, if you have questions regarding these topics or questions on wells and well water, the wellcare® Hotline can help. Contact the wellcare® Hotline at 888.395.1033 or www.wellcarehotline.org.

~ Summer Recap ~

Disinfecting Your Well - Splash-less or Regular? It is best to use the 'tried and true' regular chlorine bleach (sodium hypochlorite concentration). Splash-less bleach is a little thicker than regular household bleach. It is less likely to splash, but the sodium hypochlorite concentration is only 1-5%. It isn't strong enough to sanitize and disinfect, as the label warns. Did you know bleach loses potency over time? Always use a new bottle of unscented bleach [per our instructions](#). Or, contact your well contractor for assistance.

Drought & Your Well - Drought is a period of drier than normal conditions that result in water-related problems. A drought can last for months or years, or may be declared after as few as 15 days. Your well will need several slow, soaking rains for the water to filter through the ground and replenish the supply. [We have tips to help you get through the dry weather](#).

Emergencies, Disasters and Wells - Natural disasters and emergencies such as flood, fire, hurricanes, tornados, and windstorms affect thousands each year and can strike at any time. [Plan ahead](#). If you have been affected by a disaster, [read our information sheet](#) or [contact your local emergency agency](#).

Managing a Flooded Well - If you live in an area that was recently flooded, your private well may be at risk. Advisories: Do not drink or wash with your well water. You could get sick from contaminants washed into the well by the flood. Do not turn on the well pump. There is a danger of electrical shock and damage to your well or pump if they were flooded. Contact your well contractor for [help in dealing with the impacts of the flood on your water quality and well system](#).

NEW! Videos: [Disinfecting Your Well](#), [PSA: Emergencies & Wells](#), and [Well Financing](#) (provided by NGWA)

NEW! [Well Owner's Manual](#) - 32-page manual includes sections on water well systems, well maintenance, selecting a well contractor, protecting your wellhead, water well testing, understanding water well test results, and a well owner's checklist. [Order a free hard copy](#) or [download the manual](#).

**We support
PROTECT YOUR GROUNDWATER DAY
you should too!**



As a well owner, you are the manager of your own water system. Protecting groundwater will help reduce risks to your water supply. [Continue reading...](#)

What you can do - CMPT - conserve, maintain, protect, test

Conserve

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. Below are some tips on water conservation and protection:

- Check for leaky faucets/toilets 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.

Maintain

Private well owners are solely 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. Well maintenance, along with proper location and construction, is necessary to ensure 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, septic system maintenance, and keeping household contaminants and farming chemicals a safe distance from water supplies greatly reduce your risk from drinking potentially unsafe water.

Visit our [website](#) to [view our wellcare information sheets](#) on these topics or [contact the wellcare Hotline](#). Our [FREE Well Owner's Manual](#) is a great resource too!

Protect

Throughout the year, you should visually inspect exposed parts of the well making sure there are no cracks or damage to the well cap or casing. Ensure the area around the wellhead slopes to drain surface runoff away from the well.

If your well does not have a well cap or sanitary seal, have one installed as soon as possible to prevent unauthorized use of or entry into the well. Never cut off the well casing below the land surface. Your wellhead should be at least 12 inches from the ground surface. Your state or locality may have stricter standards. Check with your local or state environmental agency or well contractor to see what the standards are in your area.

Abandoned and improperly constructed wells can be sources of potentially polluted groundwater, which could make your drinking water unsafe. If you have an abandoned well on your property, contact a well contractor to have it sealed.

You should always hire a licensed water well professional for any new well construction, modification, abandonment, and closure.

Test

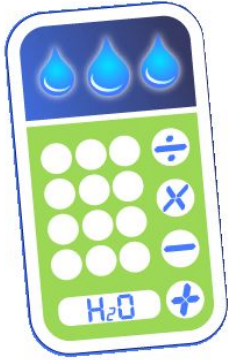
You should test your well water immediately if you have no recent test results or any record of previous tests. It is recommended to test for a minimum of bacteria every year. Also, test annually for nitrates if you live in an agricultural area or have an on-site septic system. You should test your water if you notice any change in the taste, color or odor of your water.

Testing may be warranted more than once a year in special situations such as 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.

Additionally, it is recommended to test after any flooding in or near the well to determine if flood water carried bacteria or other contaminants into the well system. [Read more information on Emergencies & Disasters and Wells.](#)

Contact your local health department, cooperative extension office, private testing laboratory, or state environmental agency for other water testing guidelines and for test kits.

We also provide a ['Water Testing by State and Province'](#) page that links to each state/province information on well testing including laboratory listings.



Looking to save water year-round?

Use the [WaterSense calculator](#) to determine how much your household could save by switching to WaterSense labeled toilets, faucets, and showerheads. This simple, online tool estimates annual water, electricity, and utility cost savings for your home. Once you've received a glimpse into your savings potential, the [WaterSense labeled product database](#) can point you in the direction of water-efficient products to suit your needs.

Coming Soon!

Sediment & Well Water Information Sheet

Here's a preview:

Sediments are naturally occurring particles that develop as earth materials are broken down through weathering, and erosion. Sediment can consist of sand, rocks, and minerals, or composed of organic particles, such as plants and animals. Sediment can collect on the surface, or settle to the bottom of liquids. Sediment particles can be large enough to be visible to the eye, or small enough that they cannot be felt when rubbed between your fingers.

Different types of sediment can effect water quality in a variety of ways. Sediment can contribute to the hardness, total dissolved solids (TDS), total suspended solids (TSS), turbidity, and corrosive nature of your water. Sediment in water can cause wear to plumbing, pumps, and water appliances. Sediment can also create clogs throughout the water system which can reduce or block water flow.

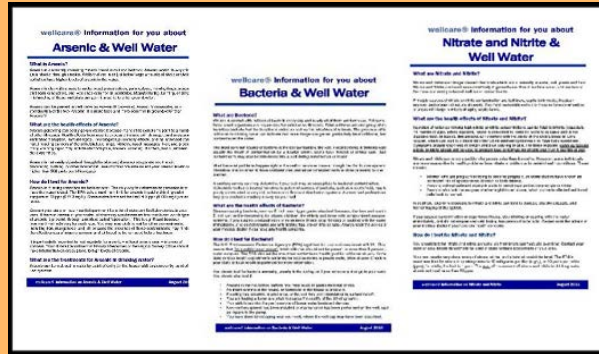
Testing your water is the only way to be certain about the contents of your drinking water. If you are experiencing an issue with sediment in your water it is recommended to test your water (see above for more information on water testing) and contact your well contractor for assistance.

View our updated
wellcare®
information sheets:

[Arsenic & Well Water](#)

[Bacteria & Well Water](#)

[Nitrate and Nitrite & Well Water](#)



Do you have questions
about your well or well
water?

We can help! Contact the wellcare® Hotline
at **888.395.1033** or www.wellcarehotline.org.



View [previous newsletters](#) and our [Well Owner's Manual!](#)

See what's happening on our social sites:



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