



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

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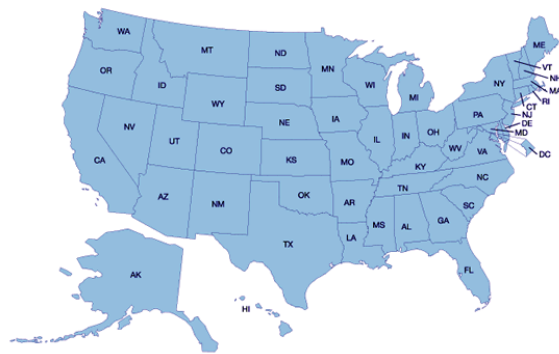
Dear Well Owners Network Member:

Welcome to your spring newsletter, chock-full of everything you need to know for this season and beyond! It is important to be informed about your water system, and a great place to start is [here](#)! 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 on wells and well water, 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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What's new

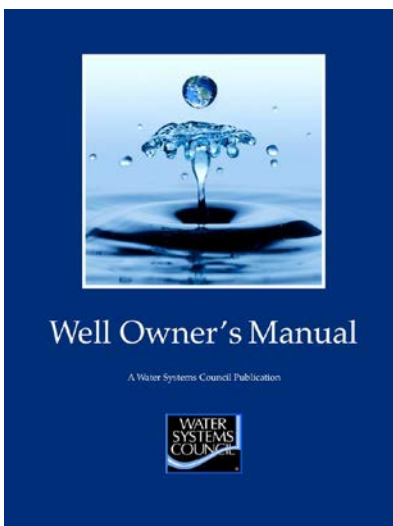
**AN INTERACTIVE MAP  
AT YOUR **FINGERTIPS!****



In the event of an emergency or natural disaster that threatens safe drinking water supplies, we have created an interactive map to access agencies within your state that can HELP. Click the map to view each state's contact information for emergency management, health department, and water testing.

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**Now Available  
in Electronic Format**



Click the image to view and download our Well Owner's Manual.

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## *What you need to know about*

### **Lead & Groundwater**

Lead can get into your water after the water leaves your well and as it travels through your plumbing system. Lead can leach from copper, galvanized, and lead pipes, lead-based solder pipe joints and brass alloy faucets. Leaching is caused by corrosion, a reaction between water and pipes or solder. Low pH (acidity), low mineral content, and high salt content in water are common causes of corrosion. All kinds of water may have high levels of lead. However, lead is rarely found in groundwater because lead binds in the soils. [Continue reading on Lead & Groundwater.](#)

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## **Well Maintenance**

### *IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!*

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 or treatment.

#### ***Well Inspection***

We all have that fear - your refrigerator shuts down after you just restocked it, your washing machine breaks in the middle of a cycle, or your oven stops working just before a large meal. These malfunctions can be avoided with simple appliance maintenance that you can do on your own. Same goes for your water well system! Like any large appliance in your home, you should also create a maintenance plan for your water well system.

You should 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 water well professional.

### ***Water Testing***

Regular water testing is an important maintenance tool. Private well owners are solely responsible for the quality of their drinking water. So it is up to you, the well owner, to decide when and how to test your water.

At a minimum, your water should be tested every year for bacteria, the most common water quality problem. Other tests may be required, depending on where you live and what is located near your water well. 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. [Read additional information on well water testing.](#)

Contact your local health department, cooperative extension service office, state environmental agency or the wellcare® hotline at 888-395-1033 for other water testing guidelines and to find a state certified water testing laboratory in your area.

Discount test kits are also available through Environmental Testing & Research Laboratories. [View their website for more information.](#)

### ***Water Treatment***

It is important to note that most well water is a safe, reliable drinking water source for you and your family. Water treatment may not be necessary. Some contaminants may be more of a "cosmetic" issue (odor, discoloration, etc.) and may not present any health risks. Test your water before installing any water treatment device.

If you have a water treatment system, follow the inspection and maintenance schedule provided by your water treatment device manufacturer or water treatment professional. If you need assistance in locating a water treatment professional contact the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033. [Additional water treatment information can be found here.](#)

### ***Septic System***

Homeowners with both wells and septic systems must take care to maintain these systems in order to insure the purity of their drinking water.

Just like your well, you should inspect the septic tank each year for capacity and leaks. Have your tank pumped out 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 groundwater. [Continue reading about septic systems](#). Contact your septic service professional for further assistance.

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## Be **Well** Informed

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has developed the Be *Well* Informed Guide which provides information and guidance for treating your well water. [Try it out!](#)

*This is intended as a guide. Some information may be interpreted incorrectly by the online system. Your test results and treatment options should always be confirmed and discussed with a water well professional.*

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**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](http://www.wellcarehotline.org).



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