



888-395-1033 wellcare® Hotline
www.wellcarehotline.org

Spring 2017
Volume 9, Issue 2

Dear Well Owners Network Member:

Woohoo, spring is approaching! As warm weather starts to set in around most of the nation, we need to start planning annual well maintenance. Don't worry, this newsletter provides all the steps. So read on! And 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.

Don't forget to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) for extra tips, industry news, and more! Happy spring!

YOUR WELL MAINTENANCE PLAN

Well & Septic Inspection

Your water well and septic system are the most important "appliances" of your home. Protect your investments with regular inspection, water testing, repairing components when necessary, and maintaining your water treatment devices.

Well:

Visually 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, 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. To locate a water well professional in your area contact your state water well or groundwater association and [view our information sheet on Selecting a Well Contractor](#).

Septic:

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. Contact your septic service professional for further assistance and [read our information sheet on Septic Systems](#). If you need assistance in locating a professional, check your local yellow pages or yellowpages.com for *Septic Service*.

Testing Your Water

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. However, annual water testing is extremely important to help protect you and your family.

At a minimum, you should test your water 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. [For additional guidance on Well Water Testing view our information sheet on this topic](#).

[Visit our Water Testing by State or Province page to locate a certified water testing laboratory in your area.](#)

Contact your local health department, cooperative extension service office, state environmental agency or the wellcare® hotline at 888-395-1033 for additional water testing recommendations.

Maintain Your 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 water treatment, 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 or [click here](#).

There's more! [Continue reading about Well Maintenance](#) and [view additional topics about your well](#).

Now Available for Free Download!

Sediment & Well Water

What is Sediment?

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 may consist of organic particles of plants and microbes. Sediments may appear in well water as color or cloudiness which may or may not settle on the bottom of containers. This type of sediment is called suspended solids. Additionally, some sediment develops from clear well water only after it is exposed to air. This type of sediment is called dissolved solids.

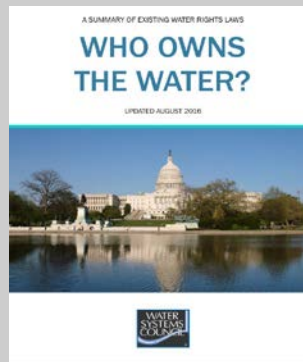
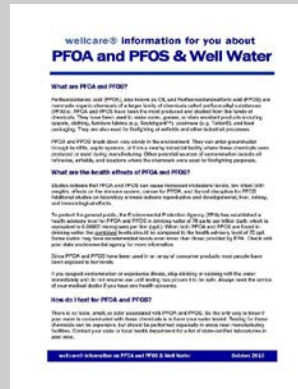
What are the effects of Sediment?

Sediment can affect the quality of water in a number of ways. Besides an unappealing look, the sediment in the water can cause wear to plumbing, pumps, and water appliances or even create clogs throughout the water system to reduce the flow of water. Additionally, health risks posed by sediment in drinking water are from pollutants and pathogens that can attach themselves to sediment particles entering your water supply. Potential health contaminants include microbes such as bacteria, virus, and protozoa; from pollutants such as fertilizers and pesticides; and from dissolved metals like mercury, lead, and arsenic.

READ MORE

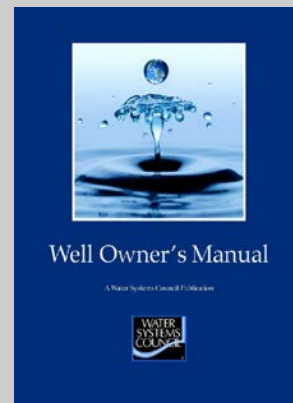
Also Available for FREE Download

New! wellcare® information sheet on [PFOA and PFOS & Well Water](#)



WSC's report [Who Owns the Water](#) has been updated!

The 32-page [Well Owner's Manual](#) on water well systems.



Click image for download.

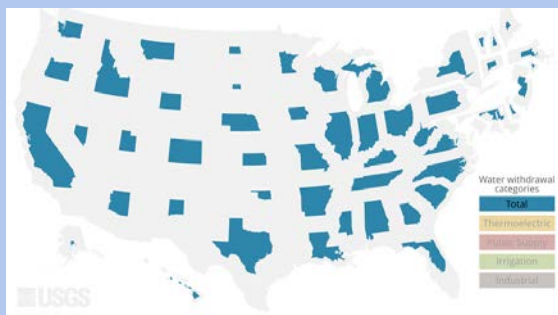
PASS IT ON!

Groundwater is a precious natural resource that supplies millions of households with drinking water....so don't take it for granted! [Learn just how important groundwater is and then pass it on during National Groundwater Awareness Week, March 5-11, 2017.](#)

national
groundwater
awareness week



Mark your calendars for EPA's ninth annual Fix a Leak Week which will take place **March 20 through 26, 2017**, but remember that you can find and fix leaks inside and outside your home to save valuable water and money all year long. [Here's how....](#)



Click the map for more information.

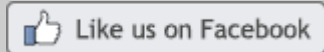
New and Noteworthy!

The USGS Water Availability and Use Science Program has developed a water use data visualization that highlights our data from 1950 to 2010. The visualization will help people see how much and where we use water across the Nation.

COMING SOON!

wellcare® Information Sheet on *Caring for a Cistern*
wellcare® Information Sheet on *Iron Bacteria & Well Water*

Hear about it first; add us on these Social Networks...



**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!](#)



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