



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

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Dear Well Owners Network Member:

Happy New Year to you and yours! We want to thank you for continuing your subscription with us and welcome to our new members!

It's cold outside, but we have hot topics inside! Your winter newsletter includes today's most frequently asked questions. No puzzles to solve here...we provide the answers! 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](http://www.wellcarehotline.org).

## January is National *Radon* Action Month!

You can't see, smell, or taste radon, but it can be found throughout the U.S. Most know to test their air for radon, but did you know you should test your water for radon? Testing is the only way to know if you have radon. [Find certified laboratories and radon service providers.](#)

### What are PFOA & PFOS?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), also known as C8, and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) are manmade organic chemicals of a larger family of chemicals called perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). PFOA and PFOS have been the most produced and studied from this family of chemicals. They have been used to make water, grease, or stain resistant products including carpets, clothing, furniture fabrics (e.g. Scotchgard™), cookware (e.g. Teflon®), and food packaging. They are also used for firefighting at airfields and other industrial processes.

PFOA and PFOS break down very slowly in the environment. They can enter groundwater through landfills, septic systems, or from a nearby industrial facility where these chemicals were produced or used during manufacturing. Other potential sources of contamination include oil refineries, airfields, and locations where the chemicals were used for firefighting purposes.

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## Commonly Asked Questions Related to Drought

*My well is dry. Can I just add water to my well?*

No. Do not add water to your well. Water delivery is usually chlorinated and can lead to well component corrosion and contamination of the groundwater. If you choose to use water delivery, water should be emptied in a cistern (large storage tank for water) instead of the well. A cistern can be hooked to the home directly or can be hooked to the existing well in case the well refills naturally.



*How do I remove sediment from my water?*

It is important to know why the sediment is in your water to begin with. Our new wellcare® information sheet, [Sediment & Well Water](#) explains where sediment comes from, if your well is at risk, how to test your water, and treatment options. Treatment for sediment may be installed in the well or in the home. The type of treatment required depends upon the source and type of sediment in your water.

*If you have any questions on your well or well water, contact a water well professional or the [wellcare® Hotline](#).*

## Winter Water Conservation

Curbing large water usages like watering the lawn isn't part of our winter routine unless you live in a warm climate. However, there are things you can do to protect your home and pipes in the cold weather that can also help conserve.

### **Winterize your pipes.**

Preventing leaks and your pipes from bursting is a great way to conserve water in winter. You should make sure outdoor pipes, like the ones running to your backyard spigot, are wrapped to prevent freezing. You can wrap them with a pipe sleeve or electrical heat tape. If you need assistance, contact your local plumber.

### **Insulate hot water pipes.**

Ever notice that it takes your shower longer to get hot when it's freezing out? That's because your pipes are colder. Just like your outdoor pipes (above), you should wrap your hot water pipes. Not only does this help the hot water stay hot, but it helps protect these pipes from the cold, which can cause leaks. Again, if you need assistance, contact your local plumber.

### **Catch the water.**

Since it takes longer for your shower to heat up in winter, catch that cold water and use it to water plants. You can use this year-round, but it's especially helpful in winter when your shower runs cold for a bit longer at first.

### **Check for leaks.**

Temperature changes from night to day cause pipes to expand and contract. This constant change adds more stress to your pipes and can lead to a leak over the winter. Contact your local plumber to check your pipes for leaks.



### **Know where the shut-off valve is.**

Despite your efforts, sometimes a pipe will still burst in the winter. The faster you can turn off the water, the less goes to waste. Most likely you will find the shut-off valve near your pressure tank if it is located inside your home. It looks like a regular spigot and it turns off all the water in your house. It will help save hundreds of gallons while you are waiting for your plumber to arrive.

*If you are ever in doubt about your well or household plumbing contact your well contractor or plumber for assistance.*

## 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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