



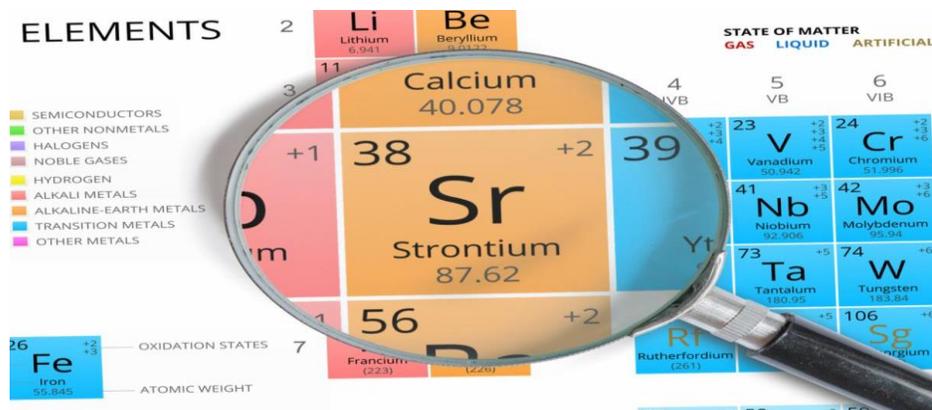
Dear Well Owners Network Member:

Happy New Year! We're excited to see you back for another year as a Well Owners Network member!

Keeping your water well operating smoothly is what the Well Owners Network is all about. Now that winter is upon us, it's time to read up on our tips for protecting those important water well components from a freeze so you have a reliable source of water all year long.

We're also introducing several new Spanish versions of our most popular publications, including our Well Owner's Manual (a must-have for all well owners....and it's free!) and several important information sheets. Read on...

Strontium and Well Water



Strontium is a naturally occurring element found in rocks, soil, air, water, plants and animals. Two forms of strontium are found in the environment: stable (non-radioactive) and unstable (radioactive). Stable strontium is the most common form of strontium, usually found in small amounts in our food, air, and drinking water. Unstable strontium is less common and comes from man-made nuclear activity, coal burning, and some phosphate fertilizers. [Continue reading our new information sheet.](#)

Water Filter Safety Q&A



Is my water safe to drink since it's filtered through my refrigerator or filtering pitcher?

Unfortunately, not all filters are made equally. Different filters remove different amounts of different contaminants. Figuring out which filter is right for you can be confusing, so we are here to help you understand how to be confident that your drinking water is safe.

Filters that often come with refrigerators and standard replacements commonly remove contaminants that create aesthetic problems like a bad

taste, odor, or staining, but do not generally pose a risk to your health. Contaminants posing health risks may not be detectable by sight, taste, or smell, and can only be found through laboratory testing.

Before selecting a filter, test your water first to determine which contaminants are present. Then you should do your homework to confirm your filter carries the ANSI/NSF certification that can provide the level of treatment you are looking for. By ensuring that your refrigerator or filtering pitcher is certified to remove the contaminants in your water, you and your family can drink your water with confidence.

What is the ANSI/NSF certification?

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and NSF International (NSF) have developed certification standards and test treatment systems and components to make sure they perform as claimed by the manufacturer. When you are ready to buy a water filter, look for the ANSI/NSF certification symbol and appropriate standards code number. Your test results will help determine which ANSI/NSF standard is best for you. You can see the list of standards and their descriptions [here](#).



For help figuring out which contaminants to test for and if your filter is certified, call the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033 or send us a chat or email at www.wellcarehotline.org.

January is Radon Action Month!



Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that has no color, odor or taste, and comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil. Soil under the home releases radon, which escapes to the air, where it can dissolve in water and accumulate in your well.

Radon can be inhaled when it is released from water while showering, washing dishes or cooking. It also can be ingested directly through

drinking water. Inhaled radon is of greatest concern as it increases the risk of lung cancer.

Radon exposure is completely preventable. Learn more about radon [here](#). Find a [certified lab in your area](#). Try ETR Labs for both [air and water radon testing](#).

Hotline 'HOT' Topic: Battling That Winter Freeze



Every winter, our wellcare® Hotline receives calls from all over the country as soon as the deep freeze starts setting in. We thought it would be helpful to include tips for three common problems our callers face when winter comes calling:

Protect your wellhead from getting damaged by snow blowers and plows.

Don't pile anything around your well, including snow, and consider adding a fiberglass driveway marker to help with locating the well. Yes, we have had a few remarks on this one that plows shouldn't be around the well to

begin with, but believe it or not there are still older wells out there that are in a driveway, close to the driveway, or close to a road.

Keep pipes from freezing in a flash.

If you don't have insulation or foam pipe covers, use blankets, towels, or layers of newspaper. Use duct tape to secure. Cover with plastic to keep out moisture. Running water through the pipe, as cold as it is, will help to keep it from freezing.

Pipe already frozen?

If you have a pipe that is frozen, apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, or a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials).

If you have a pipe that bursts or any problems with your well, contact your plumber or well contractor as soon as possible.

For more information on protecting your well this winter, contact your licensed well contractor (find a local contractor [here](#)), your plumber, the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033, and read our [Winterizing and De-winterizing Your Well](#) information sheet.

Spanish Version of Well Owner's Manual Now Available

Our popular Well Owner's Manual is now available in Spanish! The 32-page manual includes sections on water well systems, well maintenance, selecting a well contractor, protecting your wellhead, water well testing, and understanding water well test results.

The manual also includes a well owner's checklist and information on the wellcare® Hotline, a free hotline that provides advice on water well maintenance, protection and testing at 888-395-1033 or online at wellcarehotline.org.



Both versions of the Well Owner's Manual (English and Spanish) are available for [free download](#) now.

More Resources

The following sheets are now available in Spanish:

[Bacteria & Well Water](#) *Updated*

[Lead & Well Water](#) *New*

[Nitrate and Nitrite & Well Water](#) *New*

**Available
Now!**

Get the latest information on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



Still Have Questions?

We can help! Call the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033, [complete an online form](#), [send us an email](#), or [chat with us live!](#) Hablamos español también!

STAY CONNECTED:

