



WINTER 2022

wellcare® Hotline: 888-395-1033

Dear Well Owners Network Member:

Happy New Year! We are glad you are with us for another year! Winter is still here for a few more months for some of us. Not to worry, we will help you get through it with our winter water-saving tips and tools. We are also taking action against radon. You may want to keep this email handy, you'll need our de-winterizing steps when it is time. As always, we have our popular Hotline *hot* topic that may help you or someone you know.

If you have questions regarding these topics, if you cannot find what you're looking for, or if you have any other questions on wells and well water, the [wellcare®](#) Hotline can help! Contact the [wellcare®](#) Hotline at 888-395-1033 or [wellcarehotline.org](#). Don't forget to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) for extra tips, industry news, and more!



Conserve to Get Ahead of the Curve: Winter Water Savings Tips

Even though it is winter and you are probably not using water as much as in the warmer months, you should still make an effort to conserve water. We have put together a list of free and inexpensive tips to help conserve water and save money throughout the winter and beyond.

Inside

- **Fix Leaks!** The average household leak can waste 10,000 gallons of water a year. Call your plumber right away to fix any leaks in and around your home.
- **Protect your pipes.** Find out how in our [information sheet on Freeze Protection](#).
- **When in doubt drip your faucets.** Leave faucets dripping slightly overnight in extremely cold weather (below 32°). This slight trickle allows constant movement of the water which will prevent freezing. Remember more water is wasted from a leaky pipe than from using this tip! You can still save the water you are dripping...just place a bucket or large pot under the faucet. You can use that water to flush the toilet in a power outage or water plants.
- **Mark and remember where your home's shut-off valve is.** Knowing where this valve is during a water pipe burst can prevent flooding or water damage.
- **Check your toilet.** If it's old, replace it with a more efficient low flow toilet. You can save five gallons per flush.
- **Save at the sink.** Leave the water off when you are brushing your teeth or shaving at the bathroom sink. Leaving the sink running can waste thousands of gallons of water each day. This may be a hard habit to break, but it is an easy way to save water. Likewise in the kitchen! Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water instead of letting the faucet run. Soak pots and pans before washing and use less detergent so you don't rinse as much.
- **Install water-efficient faucets** throughout the house. There are numerous water-saving devices on the market. Look for [WaterSense products](#) to make your home conservation friendly.
- **Wash a full load.** Washing machines and dishwashers can use a lot of water for each load. Make sure you are only using these appliances with a full load or remember to set your washing machine to the specific load size if it can be adjusted.
- **Change the fridge filter.** Water filters in your refrigerator should be changed every 6 months or as recommended by the manufacturer. It is also

extremely important to change your whole house water filters and maintain any other treatment devices if you have them.

Outside

- **Winterize your irrigation system.** Cooler weather and seasonal precipitation make it possible to stop irrigation in the winter. Only potted plants and other winter annuals need occasional watering. For information on winterizing your irrigation system contact your irrigation company and [read our information sheet](#).
- Winter is the perfect time to modify or make plans to **modify your landscape** to use less water. Consider low-water gardens that attract wildlife, such as butterflies or birds, or try native plants.
- **Avoid watering in the evening.** Fungal problems are more likely if plants are wet all night during cooler months.
- **Put any soaker hoses and sprinklers away** for the next few months.
- **Lawns need very little irrigation** in the winter. At the most, apply ½ inch of water every three weeks if there is no rain.
- **Use organic mulch around winter plants and trees.**
- **Use a carwash to wash vehicles.** If you hand wash your car, use a bucket and a spray nozzle.

Want more tips? Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

When it's time to De-winterize

When your home is supplied by a private well system, there are additional steps that need to be taken in order to de-winterize your well components. WSC recommends contacting a licensed well contractor to perform the de-winterization process. If you have a plumber that de-winterizes your home, confirm they are also certified in water wells. If you must de-winterize on your own, there are some important things you need to know.



[Read through our information sheet before getting started.](#)

January is National Radon Action Month



Did you know you should test your well water for radon? Most homeowners are familiar with testing radon in the air, but many times testing radon in water is overlooked.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that has no color, odor, or taste. It comes from the breakdown of radioactive

elements like uranium and radium in the ground. Soil under your home releases radon which can make its way through cracks or openings in your home and sometimes through well water. High levels of radon are commonly found in certain kinds of bedrock such as granite and dark shale. Radon can be inhaled when it is released from water while showering, washing dishes, or cooking. It can also be ingested directly through drinking water. Research shows inhaled radon is the greatest concern as it increases the risk of lung cancer. Drinking water contaminated by radon may raise the risk of stomach cancer.

Good news...radon exposure is completely preventable! [Learn more about radon.](#) [Find a certified lab](#) in your area for both air and water radon testing.

Hotline HOT Topic: Financing for Water Wells

How can I find financing to fix my current well or to drill a new well?

It is difficult to imagine that in present day America, there are still families without safe drinking water in their homes. Unfortunately for many, this is the case. If you or someone you know needs help with repairs on an existing well or to have a new well drilled, please reach out to the following organizations: [RCAP](#), [USDA Rural Development](#), and the [Water Well Trust](#).



If you are able to help by donating to a family in need, please visit the [Water Well Trust website](#) for more information.



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!](#)

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