



SPRING 2024

wellcare® Hotline: 888-395-1033

Dear Well Owners Network Member:

Spring is here! It's time to start your well maintenance. This season may feel overwhelming with all the steps you need to take to make sure your well is in good condition, but we're here to help make it easier for you! This newsletter covers upcoming water-related events, well inspection, well water testing (with a new video!), water treatment and septic maintenance, frozen water systems, and a fun science experiment for the kids.

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](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) for videos, extra tips, industry news, and more!

Upcoming Water Related Events



Fix a Leak Week – March 18-24

This annual EPA event educates nationwide on fixing and finding leaks inside and outside the home.

World Water Day – March 22

This event has been held on March 22nd every year since 1993. It is an annual United Nations Observance that focuses on the importance of freshwater and raising awareness of the 2.2 billion people worldwide who live without access to safe water.

Earth Day – April 22

The first Earth Day was in 1970. By the end of that year, it led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. It also led to the passage of other first-of-their-kind environmental laws, including the National Environmental Education Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the Clean Air Act. Two years later congress passed the Clean Water Act.

Drinking Water Week – May 5-11

Every day we drink water without thinking about where it comes from. Drinking Water Week helps us think about the significant role that safe drinking water plays in keeping us healthy.

Water a Flower Day – May 30

This day was created to appreciate the beauty of plants. It helps to remind us that even the small act of watering a flower can make the world around us more beautiful. *Water-saving tip: Capture water while waiting for the water to heat for dishes and showers instead of letting it go down the drain and use this to water flowers.*

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to see how you can participate!

Well Inspection



As a well owner, you are responsible for caring for your water well system. Spring is a perfect time to start your well maintenance. The articles in this newsletter provide you with information and resources to help guide you through your checklist, starting with well inspection.

Several times each year you should visually inspect your wellhead - checking the well covering and casing to make sure all are in good condition and that there are no cracks or other entry points for potential contamination.

It is recommended that your well is inspected every 5 years by a licensed well contractor. The inspection should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- the wellhead
- the pump
- storage tank
- pipes and valves
- water flow

If you have no inspection record and cannot determine the age of the well, have it inspected immediately by a licensed well contractor. To keep track of your well maintenance, you can utilize our Well Owner's Manual which has a section for your well maintenance history. To view and download our WOM, click [here](#).

For a list of licensed well contractors in your area, use our [interactive map on our website](#). If you need help locating a licensed well contractor, contact the [wellcare®](#) Hotline at 888-395-1033.

Well Water Testing

At a minimum, your water should be tested every year for bacteria, the most common water quality problem. Additional tests may be recommended depending on where you live and what may be present in your area such as arsenic, lead, nitrate, and radon.



You should test more than once a year in special situations:

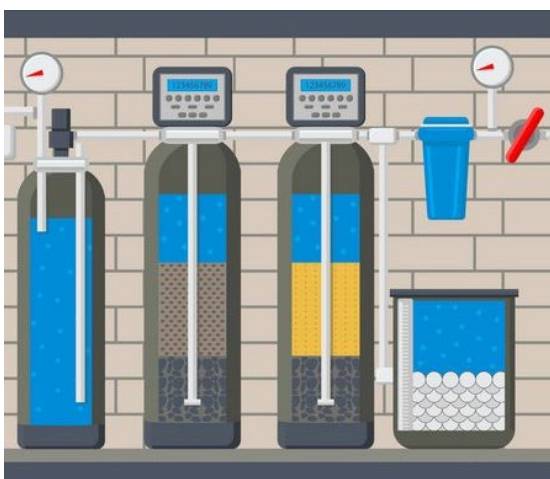
- someone in the household is pregnant or nursing;
- there are unexplained illnesses in the family;
- you notice a change in water taste, odor, color, or clarity;
- your neighbors find a dangerous contaminant in their water; or
- there is a spill of chemicals or fuels into or near your well.

Our [wellcare® Well Water Testing](#) and [Understanding Your Well Water Test Results](#) information sheets will walk you through the steps you need to take to ensure your well water is safe.

Contact your state or local health department for a list of state-certified laboratories in your area or use [our interactive map](#) and [watch our new video on How to Sample Well Water](#).

If you have additional questions on well water testing or need help once you receive your test results, contact the [wellcare®](#) Hotline by calling 888-395-1033, send us an [email](#), or chat with us live on [our website](#).

Well Water Treatment



Please note that not all well water needs or has treatment. However, if you have treatment currently installed, you should make every effort to maintain it properly. Check with your treatment system's manufacturer or the company that installed them for the maintenance schedule. If you do not have treatment, we highly recommend that you **test your water first** to determine if it is necessary. Water test results also help to determine the best system(s) for your water quality. Before selecting and installing treatment, discuss your results and concerns with a

water treatment professional in your area.

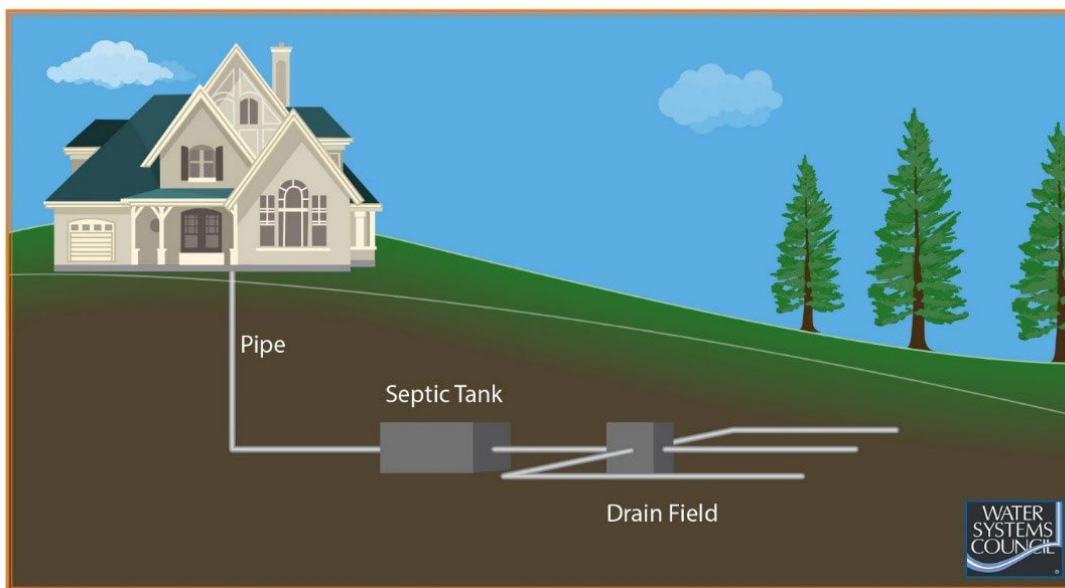
To locate a water treatment professional visit Water Quality Association's (WQA) [website](#).

Water treatment should be certified by either [NSF](#) or [WQA](#) when available. Water testing after treatment is installed is equally important to confirm the effectiveness of the system(s).

Download our [wellcare® Water Treatment](#) sheet for more information.

If you have additional questions on water treatment, contact the [wellcare®](#) Hotline by calling 888-395-1033, send us an [email](#), or chat with us live on [our website](#).

Septic System



A poorly maintained wastewater treatment system (also known as your septic system) can pose a serious threat to the quality of your drinking water and can require expensive repairs. Just like your well, you should have a maintenance plan for your septic system. Here's a checklist for your septic system:

1. Have your septic tank inspected for capacity and leaks.
2. Pump your septic tank every 3-5 years based on the use and size of your household. Your septic service professional can provide recommendations.
3. Repair the septic tank or drainfield system as needed to prevent leaks of bacteria and nutrients into groundwater.

More tips: Never drive or park a vehicle on the septic as this may crush buried lines or compress the soils around the leach field which can lead to failure.

If you have any questions about your septic system, contact your septic service professional or the [wellcare®](#) Hotline at 888.395.1033 or visit our [website](#).

If you need assistance locating a professional, check with your local health department or search these websites: [NOWRA](#) and [NAWT](#).

For more information, see our [wellcare®](#) information sheet on [Your Septic System](#).

Hotline HOT Topic: My well system and pipes froze, and the pipe burst, what do I do?!?

Unfortunately, this can happen in almost any location in the United States and Canada when the temperatures drop below freezing. So, what are your first steps when the pipes burst, and water is flowing everywhere?

1. Find your breaker and turn the power off to the well pump. This will prevent water from continuing to be pumped from the well.
2. Call a local licensed well contractor who can come and inspect your system and make the necessary repairs.
3. While you wait for the licensed well contractor, protect your wellhead if it is exposed to outside elements and freezing temperatures. Wrap it with insulation, blankets, towels, or anything else you can find that will not cause damage to the wellhead but can help protect it from the cold.
4. Use insulation, rubber, or foam pipe covers to wrap exposed pipes. If you do not have access to these items use blankets, towels, or layers of newspaper. You can secure these materials with duct tape and cover them with plastic to keep out moisture. For extra protection in the areas of your home that are not heated, such as a crawl space or basement area, pipes may first be wrapped with special heating strips followed by an outer layer of insulation on top.

Tip: If your area has a forecast of temperatures dropping below freezing (32° Fahrenheit), make sure you *slowly* drip water from a faucet that is furthest away from your well system. This will help prevent your pipes from freezing.

Check out our information sheet on [Freeze Protection](#) for more helpful tips!

Kidz Korner: What Dissolves in Water?



This fun experiment will teach your little ones what can dissolve in water. It can be applied to water sources, like groundwater, and how contaminants aren't always visible in well water.

What you'll need:

- 5 different powders such as sugar, salt, gelatin powder, flour, and pepper
- 5 clear jars
- Water
- Stirrers

Steps:


1. Talk to your kids about what they think will happen when water is added to the jars.
2. Warm the water that you will be adding into the jars (this will make the experiment a bit faster than using cold water. You could also use warm water for the first run experiment and cold water for the second run and note the differences).
3. Put one tablespoon of material into a jar. Repeat 4 times with the other materials into the remaining jars.
4. Pour 1 cup of warm water into each jar.

5. Stir each jar and then wait 60 seconds.

Once the 60 seconds is up, your kids can determine which materials dissolved in the water and which ones didn't. You can ask them which ones they guessed correctly and which ones they had to change their answers on.

Extra Tip: To get them to think like a scientist, you can ask them, "What do these results tell you?"

Adapted from <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/which-solids-dissolve-in-water-chemistry/>



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HOTLINE
A Water Systems Council Program

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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