



SUMMER 2025

wellcare® Hotline: 888-395-1033

Dear Well Owners Network Member:

As summer sets in, it brings sunshine, outdoor fun, and new challenges for private well owners. Whether it's preparing for extreme weather, conserving water during dry spells, or knowing when to disinfect your well, we're here to help you stay informed, prepared, and protected.

In this issue, we're excited to introduce our updated HELP emergency planning tools, share expert guidance for coping with low water levels, and offer easy conservation tips you can put into action today. We've also added a fun Kids' Korner activity to keep young ones learning and engaged during summer break.

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](https://www.wellcarehotline.org). Don't forget to follow us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Linktree](#), [Pinterest](#), [TikTok](#), [X \(formerly known as Twitter\)](#), and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) for videos, extra tips, industry news, and more!

Thank you for trusting us as your water well resource. Here's to a safe, well-prepared summer season!

🔥 Be Ready for the Heat: Emergencies & Disasters + New HELP Plan



Summer brings more than just sunshine...it can also bring severe storms, wildfires, flooding, and power outages. For homeowners with water wells, being unprepared during these events could mean a loss of access to safe water when you need it most.

That's why we've launched our updated **HELP: Homeowner Emergency Localized Plan** program! It includes a new printable document to help you prepare before the storm and a section where you can fill in your emergency contacts and local resources. There's also a quick-reference **Emergency Kit Essentials infographic** to keep on your fridge or in your emergency kit.

🔗 [Download the HELP plan and infographic from our website](#)

Pro Tip: Keep your HELP document in a waterproof bag near your emergency supplies and update it every season!

After the Storm: What Well Owners Need to Know

Recovering from a disaster is tough, but ensuring your private well is safe afterward is critical. Floods, storms, and other emergencies can compromise your water system without any obvious signs. Acting quickly and carefully can protect your drinking water, prevent long-term damage, and safeguard your family's health. We have provided basic steps on what to do after a storm.

1. Water Safety First

If you're unsure whether your water is safe, follow any local or state health department advisories. Do not drink or bathe with the water until it's confirmed safe. Shallow or older wells are especially vulnerable to contamination, even if there's no visible damage.

2. Electrical Warning

Never turn on your well pump or system after flooding until it has been thoroughly inspected. There is a serious risk of electrical shock. Rubber boots and gloves are not enough protection. Call a licensed electrician, well, or pump contractor to inspect and restore power safely.

3. Well & Septic System Concerns

Floodwater can carry debris that damages well parts or introduces sediment and bacteria. If your well wasn't tightly sealed, it may be contaminated. Septic systems should not be used until the ground has dried, as flooding can damage drain fields and pipes.

4. Emergency Treatment Options

If bottled water isn't available during an emergency, you can treat well water, but only if chemical contamination is ruled out. Boil for 1 minute, add 16 drops of unscented bleach per gallon, and wait 30 minutes. You can also use distillation or a certified filter for microbial removal. Always clean and disinfect storage containers first. After power outages, disinfect your well and don't use the water until it's tested and confirmed safe.

5. Water Testing

After a storm or disinfecting your well, it's important to test the water to ensure bacteria have been eliminated and no other contaminants are present. To

schedule a test, contact your local or state health department or use [our interactive map](#) to find a certified laboratory near you.

6. When in doubt, call the pros out!

Pumps submerged in floodwater must be cleaned of silt and sediment and dried before use. If not properly maintained, pumps can burn out. If you suspect your well or pump system has been impacted by the storm, call your licensed well or pump contractor for assistance. You can find a local professional by using [our interactive map](#).

For additional guidance and resources, [visit our dedicated Emergencies web page](#).

The [wellcare®](#) Hotline can also help! Our friendly staff members are available to answer your questions and provide you with any information you need to maintain a safe water supply. Contact us by calling 888-395-1033 or chat with us live at [wellcarehotline.org](#).

💧 Low Water Levels? Here's What to Do

As summer temperatures rise, groundwater levels can drop—especially during dry spells, drought, or with heavy water use. Water levels naturally rise in wet months and fall in dry ones, and it may take months of steady rain or snow to fully replenish your well. If your well seems slower, the water turns cloudy, has sediment, or sputters, you may be experiencing a low water level.



Our new [video](#) breaks down what signs to look for, what actions to take, and when to call a licensed well contractor. We also share simple, water-saving practices to help reduce strain on your well during the dry months.

 Watch now: “[Coping with Low Water Levels](#)” – available on our [YouTube channel](#).

Here's a quick overview of steps you should take if you are experiencing low water levels:

Check Water Levels

Well records (also called well logs or well completion reports) contain helpful data on your well's depth and yield. Compare past records to your current well output. Licensed well contractors can help measure your static water level and assess performance.

Conservation Makes a Difference

Simple changes like fixing leaks, installing low-flow fixtures, and spreading out household water usage can save thousands of gallons each year and reduce the stress on your well. Check out our article below for additional conservation measures.

Add More Capacity

Installing a large pressure tank or storage system can help during low water periods and reduce wear on your pump. In some cases, your well pump can be lowered, the well can be deepened, or redeveloped with techniques like hydrofracturing.

Pro Tip: Always consult a licensed well contractor before making changes and test your water after any maintenance or repairs to ensure it's safe.

[Click here to read our information sheet on Coping with Low Water Levels.](#)

Need quick access to our tools, tips, and services? It's all on our [Linktree!](#)

Drought Watch & Water Conservation Tips



Even if your area isn't officially in a drought, many regions are experiencing below-average rainfall and lower water tables. Conservation isn't just for city water users; it matters just as much for private well owners.

Top Tips for Summer Water Conservation:

- Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Water plants early in the morning or late in the evening and use only native plants and grasses.
- Fix any household leaks promptly.
- Use mulch to retain soil moisture in gardens.
- **DO NOT** use your well to fill pools, hot tubs, or for other large uses. Use a water delivery service instead.

Every drop you save helps your well recover and reduces your risk of over-pumping or water shortages.

 *Share our “Top Tips for Summer Water Conservation” with neighbors and friends!*

For more water conservation tips, check out our information sheet [here](#).

Hotline 🔥 Hot 🔥 Topic: When to Disinfect Your Well

Summer is a common time for contamination, whether from heavy rains, flooding, nearby landscaping or construction, or bacterial growth in warm temperatures.

Our simple guide (image to the right!) will walk you through when the disinfection process is necessary—and when it's not.

When should you disinfect your well?

- **DO NOT** use for regular maintenance
- After new construction or repair
- After flooding or major storms
- If harmful bacteria are found
- If the well has been abandoned or unused for extended periods.

Our videos and info sheets will guide you through the process and help you decide when to call a professional.

🎥 Video: [Disinfecting a Well](#)

📄 Info Sheet: [Disinfecting Your Well](#) (also available in French and Spanish on our [website](#))

💡 **Remember: Disinfection is only part of the solution; always test your water after to ensure it's safe!**

When to Disinfect a Well

DO NOT use as regular maintenance

Disinfecting or shocking a well should not be used as regular maintenance unless directed by your licensed well contractor.

DO use for new well construction or after repair

Disinfection is recommended after a new well is drilled or a repair is made. Some states require this. Seek guidance from your well contractor or environmental health department.

DO use for a flooded well

Disinfection is recommended if your well is flooded or flooding occurs near your well. More information on managing a flooded well can be found on our website.

DO use if harmful bacteria are found

Annual water testing is recommended for a minimum of bacteria. Disinfection should be completed if bacteria is positive. Well inspection is recommended with reoccurring positive bacteria tests.

DO use if the well has been abandoned or not used for extended periods

Disinfection is recommended if a well has not been used for extended periods. Some states require disinfection if a well has been abandoned and prior to sealing.



Kidz Korner: 💧 Saving Water Freeze Tag

Turn a hot summer day into a fun water-saving adventure! In this game, players pretend to be *Water Heroes* working to stop *Water Wasters*—but there's a cool twist!

What You Need:

- 1 spray bottle filled with water (or use a water blaster for older kids)
- Friends to play!

How to Play:

1. Choose one player to be the Water Saver—they carry the spray bottle.
2. Everyone else is a Water Waster running around the yard.
3. The Water Saver tags players by spraying them lightly with water.
4. When tagged, Water Wasters must *freeze in place*—they've been stopped!
5. To get unfrozen, another player must shout a water-saving tip (like “Turn off the tap when brushing!” or “Fix leaky faucets!”).
6. After a few rounds, switch roles so everyone gets a turn being the Water Saver.

Water-Smart Fun Tip: Use just a small mist setting and keep a bucket handy to refill from instead of the hose!



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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