



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

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## Get Involved - Help Protect Our Most Precious Resource!



### Ways You Can Help

Groundwater is important to all of us. It's the water we drink, it grows the food on our table, and it nourishes our communities. Because we all benefit from groundwater, let's protect it! This newsletter will guide you through what you can do to protect this necessary resource now and for future generations.

Well maintenance, along with proper location and construction, is essential to ensuring your drinking water is safe. Contamination of well water supplies generally occurs when polluted surface water or septic system discharges seep into the groundwater. Human activity can also play a role in unnecessary pollution. Practices such as annual checkups, regular testing and keeping household

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### Upcoming Events

**September is National Preparedness Month**  
[Website](#)

**World Water Monitoring Day**  
September 18, 2013  
[Website](#)

**National Pollution Prevention Week**  
September 16-22, 2013  
[Website](#)

contaminants and farming chemicals a safe distance from water supplies greatly reduce your risk from drinking potentially unsafe water.

Private well owners are responsible for ensuring that their wells are constructed to local and state standards and for testing their water regularly to confirm that it is free of any natural or man-made impurities. Below are some tips for inspecting your well construction and testing your water:

### ***Well Construction***

- Visually inspect exposed parts of the well - Make sure there are no cracks, or damage to the well cap or casing. Ensure the area around the wellhead slopes to drain surface runoff away from the well and that it is free of leaves, branches, and other debris.
- Install a well cap or sanitary seal to prevent unauthorized use of or entry into the well.
- Do not cut off the well casing below the land surface. Your wellhead should be at least 12 inches from the ground surface.
- Seal abandoned wells - Abandoned and improperly constructed wells can be sources of potentially polluted groundwater, which could make your drinking water unsafe.
- Hire a certified well contractor for any new well construction, modification, abandonment and closure.

### ***Water Testing***

- Test drinking water immediately if you have no recent test results or any record of previous tests.
- Test drinking water for bacteria every year. Also test annually for nitrates if you live in an agricultural area or have an on-site septic system.
- Test if you notice any change in the taste, color or odor of your water.

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## **Discounts on Water Testing Kits for Well Owners!**

**Save from \$21 to \$101**

Your referral from WSC entitles you to special DISCOUNTS @ **ETR Laboratories.**

For more information click [here](#)

- Test more than once a year in special situations: someone in the household is pregnant or nursing; there are unexplained illnesses in the family; your neighbors find a dangerous contaminant in their water; or there is a spill of chemicals or fuels into or near your well.
- Test after any flooding in or near the well, to determine if flood water carried bacteria or other contaminants into the well system.

Contact your local health department, cooperative extension office, private testing laboratory or state environmental agency for other water testing guidelines and for test kits. For more information on Well Water Testing click [here](#).

Water conservation is becoming an ever-growing necessity throughout the world today as the availability of drinking water constantly diminishes through events such as drought, contamination and an increase in population. The average home in the US consumes about 80-100 gallons of water per person per day. Nearly 14 percent of that water is wasted. Conserving and protecting this limited resource is essential in ensuring an adequate supply of water for all your needs as well as for future generations. Below are some tips on water conservation and protection:

### **Water Conservation**

- Check for leaky faucets and have them fixed.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator for drinking.
- Shut off the water while brushing your teeth and shaving.
- Take shorter showers.
- Run the clothes washer and dishwasher with full loads only.
- Water lawn and plants only as needed. Most established lawns and gardens need just one hour of deep watering once a week to remain healthy.

For more information on Water Conservation click [here](#).

## **Support the Water Well Trust**

The Water Well Trust (WWT) is a 501(c)3 organization created by the Water Systems Council. WWT and its partners build wells for low-income American families living without access to safe drinking water.



Sanitary Water Wells for People With No Water Supply

Learn more about the Water Well Trust, click [here](#).



## **Protection**

- Avoid mixing or using pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, degreasers, fuels, and other pollutants near the well. Store these products at least 100 feet from your water well system.
- Pump and inspect septic systems as often as recommended by your septic service or local health department.
- Never dispose of harsh chemicals, solvents, petroleum products, pesticides or pharmaceuticals down the drain/toilet, in a dry well or septic system. Take unused portions to a hazardous waste collection site.

*Try using biodegradable or environmentally friendly pesticides and fertilizers. Or check with your local health department or waste management for hazardous waste acceptance sites to dispose of unused products. Oil based paints are accepted at most, but water based paint can be thrown in the garbage once hardened. Many pharmacies offer take-back programs for pharmaceuticals. If there are no disposal options, you can alter the medications to make them undesirable or unusable. Try adding kitty litter, coffee grounds or spices like mustard or turmeric to liquid medications and water to pills. Pharmaceuticals for pets should be handled the same as for humans.*

For more information on Septic Systems and Properly Disposing of Pesticides and Fertilizers click [here](#).

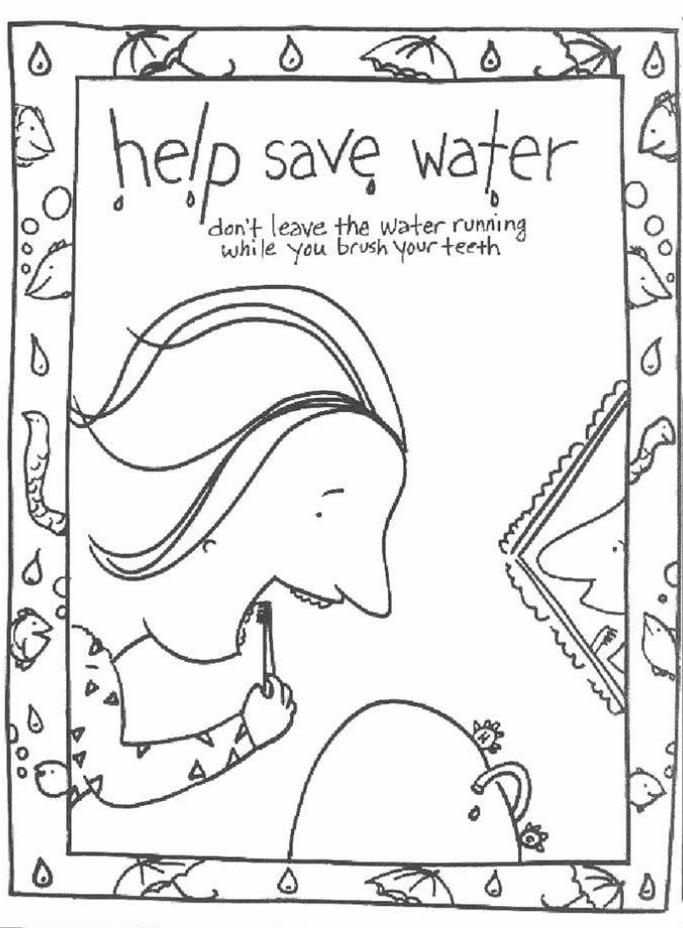
## **Industry News**

### **"Bounds v. State of New Mexico" Decision a Win for the Industry!**



[Click for Press Release and Summary](#)

**Kids Place: Help Save Water! A coloring page to help you remember an easy way you can save water.**



Picture from:

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/images/pictures/coloringpages/conservation/savewater.jpg>

*Answers to crossword puzzle from our Summer issue:*

*Across: 2. hurricane, 4. aquifer, 6. well water, 8. drought, 9. thunderstorm, 10. power outage, 11. conserve, 12. surface water*

*Down: 1. summer, 3. well, 5. groundwater, 7. flooding*

## Q & A from the wellcare® Hotline

Q: I found an old well on a property I just purchased. What should I do?

A: Contact your local health department to see what the regulations are for closing an abandoned well. Hire a well contractor to properly close and seal the well.

For more information on Closing an Abandoned Well click [here](#).

If you need further assistance contact the wellcare® Hotline at 1-888-395-1033.

Click image to be directed to our web page:



*Previous newsletters with additional tips can be found [here](#).*

*WSC has over 80 different wellcare® information sheets that can help you and your family learn more about managing a water well and protecting your water supply. Visit our [website](#) or contact the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033.*