



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

December 2013-January 2014
Volume 6, Issue 1

Happy Holidays from the [wellcare®](http://www.wellcarehotline.org) Well Owners Network!

Wishing everyone a
wonderful holiday season and a
very Happy New Year!

Saving in the Wintertime and Beyond

If you have been thinking about ways to save this winter and beyond, we have you covered! There are so many simple ways to save, that are quick, easy and inexpensive!

1. Save Water

One of the simplest ways is to use less water! Every minute you leave the water running while you wait for the water to warm up or get ready to brush your teeth, you're letting gallons of water run down the drain! Try turning the water off while brushing your teeth. In turn, you will also be saving energy (and helping your well!) by allowing your pump to rest since you won't be using as much water. More ideas on using less water can be found [here](#).

Highlights In This Issue

[Saving in the Wintertime and Beyond](#)

[Important Legal Victory in Georgia](#)

[Kids Place: Make a Snow Measuring Stick](#)

In Every Issue

[Industry News](#)

[Kids Place](#)

[Water Quality](#)

[wellcare® Hotline Q & A](#)

[Your Septic System](#)

Upcoming Events

January is National Radon Action Month

[Website](#)

Like us on **Facebook**

Follow us on **twitter**

2. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

Another easy way to save is to choose household products that have multiple purposes or are reusable rather than disposable. For instance, buy rechargeable batteries, reuse plastic grocery bags for pet waste or to line small trash cans, and reuse pickle jars to store other items. Can't reuse a bottle or container? Then recycle it!

3. Do-It-Yourself

A fun and inexpensive way to save is to start making things yourself. This is a great way to spend some time with your family or friends and you'll save money too. Some great ideas are making your own reusable grocery bags, cleaners, beauty treatments, hair care products, and even plant your own herb garden.

4. Turn off the Lights

It's just that easy! Make a habit of turning off the lights, TV, radio or other devices whenever you leave a room. If you don't already use energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs, give them a try! You'll save money on your energy bill and your house will be more eco-friendly. Another great idea is to unplug cell phone chargers and other electrical items when they aren't in use, and to turn off computers at the end of the day instead of just letting them "sleep."

5. Rethink Laundry

Did you ever think your laundry routine could impact the environment? It sure can! Washing your clothes in cold or warm water instead of hot, doing only full loads of laundry, and hang-drying your clothes on occasion all help save energy and water too!

6. Online Help

Take advantage of online services. It will save you time and money! Pay your bills online and enroll in

**Need a last
minute gift?**

**Make a tax
deductible donation
in honor of a loved
one and**

**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](#).

paperless billing to avoid a mound of paper bills at the end of the month and save money on stamps. Read books, newspapers, and magazines online, take notes and use a calendar on your phone, and download music and software instead of using a CD.

7. Donate or Swap

If you have items that you no longer use or want, consider donating them or hosting a swap party. Donating items to a local charity can help provide people with employment and learning new skills, assist individuals in need, support homeless animals and more. Hosting a swap party gives you an opportunity to get together with your friends and get some new-to-you stuff in return!

8. Get Active

Since the weather is getting colder, it might not be the most optimal time to get active outdoors, but it's a great way to go green and save money! Instead of taking the car everywhere or joining a gym, try walking, running, or biking outdoors when weather permits.

9. Try Glass

If you frequently buy plastic water bottles to get your H2O fix, consider switching to a reusable glass bottle and use your well water to fill it! Glass bottles are a little heavier to carry around, but you'll save money and help the environment too. Concerned about your well water quality? Test your water. See the right side bar of this newsletter for information on discount test kits that are available through ETR Labs.

These subtle changes will become a part of your daily routine in no time. You will help the environment and your wallet all at once!

WSC is offering special pricing on select publications, just in time for the holidays!



Just in time for the holidays, WSC is providing a special promotion on select publications. See below for special pricing.

	Regular Price	Special Price*
Water Systems Handbook 12 th Edition (without binder)	\$65	\$50
All Special Reports	\$25 - \$50	\$15
wellcare® Pocket Guide	\$5.95	\$5
wellcare® Home Inspectors Guide	\$10	\$5
The Big Rig - makes a great stocking stuffer!	\$5.95	\$5

*Minimum order \$25.00. Offer good through 12/31/11. See website for restrictions and terms. Shipping and handling charges apply. All prices in US dollars.

For more information on these publications, to view our entire list of publications, or to place an order visit www.watersystems-council.org or contact Charlene Greenstreet at cgreenstreet@watersystems-council.org or 202-825-4387



Click the image for additional information.

Your Septic System

If you haven't had your septic system inspected yet, it's time to do so before winter weather hits your area! Contact your local health department for a referral or check your local yellow pages for listings.

For more information on Septic Systems click [here](#).

Industry News

Important Legal Victory for Georgia Association of Groundwater Professionals

DULUTH, GA November 8, 2013 - The Superior Court of Washington County has found a city of Sandersville ordinance that prohibits drilling of wells within its city limits unconstitutional. Furthermore, the court found that a private landowner has, under Georgia and Federal Constitutions, the right to drill a well on their property subject only to government's reasonable rules and regulations looking to the protection, safety, and health of its citizens.

[Click here for additional information.](#)

Kids Place: Did you know that snow turns into groundwater and eventually finds its way into your water well?

Think about the water cycle and how the snow melts and seeps into the ground. Snow and all other precipitation helps to refill your water well. Pretty cool, huh? So while you are snowed in this winter, make this fun Snow Measuring Stick to see how much snow you get!

Discounts on Water Testing Kits for Well Owners!

Save from \$21 to \$101 on select kits or 10% off all others.

Your referral from WSC entitles you to special DISCOUNTS @ [**ETR Laboratories.**](#)

For more information click [here](#)



What you'll need:

- Wooden stake (available at most craft stores)
- Wooden snowflake cut-outs, various sizes
- Blue and silver craft paint
- White 3-D paint
- Blue and silver glitter paint
- Glue
- Tape measure or ruler
- Pencil
- Paint brushes

How to make your Snow Measuring Stick Craft

- Paint the wooden stake blue and set aside to dry. This will most likely take 2 coats.
- Paint your snowflakes silver and set aside to dry.
- For the big snowflake, outline the piece in silver glitter paint, then do an inner line of blue glitter paint, then fill in the inner part of the snowflake with more silver glitter paint.
- For the little snowflakes, squeeze a little silver glitter paint onto each one and then brush the paint around to get a nice even sparkle.
- Use your tape measure to mark out 1 inch increments on your blue stake. Go back over these numbers with white 3-D paint so that they stand out.
- Glue the large snowflake to the top of the stick and glue the smaller snowflakes along the stick for decoration.
- Place outside and wait for snow!

Source: <http://www.allkidsnetwork.com/crafts/winter/snow-measuring-stick.asp>

Q & A from the wellcare® Hotline

Q: What is Radon and how can I test my well water for this?

A: Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless radioactive gas that occurs naturally from the decay of uranium; usually found in igneous rock and soil. It is recommended to have your home's air tested for radon first. If you find the level of radon in your home is 4 pCi/L (maximum level for air) or more then it is also recommended to have your well water tested for radon.

January is National Radon Action Month. Have your home and water tested today! Here's how:

You can find a local laboratory on your state's radon website or locate one [here](#).

ETR Labs also provides radon test kits for both air and water. Receive 10% off their radon test kits just by mentioning Water Systems Council. For more details click [here](#). To order, contact them at 1-800-344-9977.

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

Click image to be directed to our web page:



**wellcare®
information on**

**Radon &
Groundwater**

wellcare® information for you about Radon & Groundwater

What is Radon?

You may be familiar with concerns about radon in the air in your home. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that has no color, odor or taste. It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium and radium in the ground. Soil under the home releases radon, which seeps to the air, where it can dissolve in water and accumulate in your well. High levels of radon are commonly detected in certain kinds of bedrock, such as granite and dark shale.

What are the health effects of Radon?

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. Drinking water contaminated by radon may raise the risk of stomach cancer, though this risk is extremely small.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), only about 1.2 percent of radon in indoor air comes from drinking water. In general, for every 10,000 pCi/L of radon in drinking water, 1 pCi/L is transferred to the indoor air.

How do I test for Radon?

The EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that homes first be tested for radon in indoor air. Radon is measured in "picocuries" per liter (abbreviated "pCi/L"). If the test on air results in a reading of 4 pCi/L or higher, the EPA recommends that radon also be tested in drinking water.

A state laboratory certification office or state radon office can direct you to laboratories equipped to test drinking water for radon. If your test results indicate radon is present, contact your state radon office or the wellcare® hotline to find out if any action is needed.

What is the treatment for Radon in drinking water?

Fortunately radon can be eliminated through one of two types of water treatment. Aeration devices bubble air through the water, and then use an exhaust fan to vent the radon outdoors. GAC (granular activated carbon) filters use activated carbon to remove the gas. GAC filters tend to cost less than aeration devices. However, radioactively collected on the GAC filter, which may cause a handling hazard and require special disposal methods. It should be noted that GAC filters have a short life span and need to be changed out on a regular basis. A licensed water treatment professional in your area can suggest and install the best treatment system for your situation.

Information on Radon & Groundwater Updated April 2007

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

WSC has over 90 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.