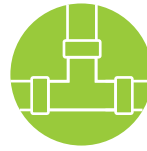


Tips for Caring for Your Well Water



When to Test Your Well Water

Initially

- ▶ When a new well is drilled
- ▶ If there is no record of testing
- ▶ You are buying a home with a well

Annually

- ▶ Spring or summer is the best time to test

And...

- ▶ Before installing a treatment system
- ▶ Sudden change in taste, color or odor
- ▶ Someone in the home is pregnant or nursing
- ▶ After failure of a septic system or flooding event
- ▶ Changes in land use that cause runoff

What to Test Your Well Water For

At a minimum, test for the following common contaminants that can pose health risks:

- ▶ **Bacteria** is the most common contaminant
- ▶ **Nitrates** are caused by faulty septic systems and fertilizers
- ▶ **Lead** can leach from household plumbing
- ▶ **Arsenic** occurs naturally and was once a common ingredient in pesticides

Where to Have Your Well Water Tested

- ▶ Certified or accredited water testing laboratory, including the Regional Water Authority Lab headquartered in New Haven, Connecticut
- ▶ Keep records of water testing

What to Inspect Your Well For

- ▶ Regularly inspect your wellhead for damage to the casing or well cap
- ▶ Contact a licensed well contractor to repair any damage immediately to reduce the potential for contamination

What You Can Do to Protect Your Well Water Supply

- ▶ Store chemicals at least 100 feet from your well
- ▶ Keep heavy equipment and vehicles off of your lawn and away from your well
- ▶ Only grow grass around your well; plants with long roots can damage the well casing
- ▶ Do not pile leaves, snow or anything around your well; consider adding a fiberglass marker to help with locating the well during fall and winter
- ▶ Pump septic tanks every 3-5 years to avoid well contamination

What the Causes Are for No Water or Low Pressure

- ▶ Low water levels in well
- ▶ Leak in system piping
- ▶ Clogged filter or water pipe
- ▶ Faulty electrical controls
- ▶ Waterlogged pressure tank
- ▶ Worn well pump

Where to Learn More

- ▶ Well-safe.com
- ▶ Roach-Plumbing.com
- ▶ Wellowner.org
- ▶ Wellcarehotline.org
- ▶ Your local health department