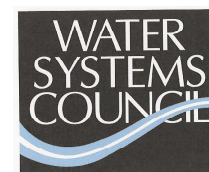


## Did you know...?

- ❖ Modern wells provide a safe, efficient water supply to more than 42 million people nationwide. Today's well owners enjoy the peace of mind that comes with knowing they have a reliable source of water that meets all the demands of modern households.
- ❖ Well water is nature's best. Water from modern wells is naturally filtered and is cool, natural and pure.
- ❖ Well water is a **safe**, protected natural resource, stored in aquifers within the earth. Well owners know what their family is drinking when they turn on the tap.
- ❖ A well is like money in the bank. A professionally installed well provides many years of safe, affordable water.
- ❖ Wells are simple to maintain and add real value to your home.

## For more information on Your Well

- ❖ Call the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033 or visit [www.wellcarehotline.org](http://www.wellcarehotline.org).
- ❖ Check out the wellcare® Pocket Guide, available for purchase through the wellcare® Hotline.
- ❖ See the wellcare® information sheet on Buying a Home with a Well, available on the Water Systems Council website.
- ❖ View the complete list of wellcare® information sheets at [www.watersystemscouncil.org](http://www.watersystemscouncil.org).
- ❖ Visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).



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A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO

# YOUR WELL



# Buying a Home with a Well?

*Congratulations on purchasing a home with your own private water well system.*

*You can feel safe and confident that you will be free from the burden of paying for your water usage, as well as the seasonal controls and chemicals mandated by many water utilities.*

## Know What Questions to Ask

- **Research the well's history.** Try to get as much information as possible on the construction, maintenance and condition of the well. A copy of the well log or well history may be available through the seller, the company that drilled the well, and/or the local health department.
- **Review the well's condition, including its location and age.** The checklist in this brochure lists the ideal conditions for the well on your new property.
- **Know the well's capacity and yield.** Many communities set minimum well yield requirements. Call the local health department or ask a well professional for minimum well yield requirements in the area.
- **Ask if any water treatment devices are installed.** These should also be regularly maintained.
- **Conduct a water test.** At a minimum, every well should be tested annually for bacteria. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also recommends testing for nitrate/nitrite and pH, and recommends consulting with experts about the need to test for contaminants of local concern, such as arsenic, lead or radon. Buyers should have a drinking water test done as part of a home inspection.
- **If you still have questions about the condition of the well, contact your well professional about further well inspection, water testing and/or the need for well repair.** A water well professional can help you schedule further inspection, maintenance and testing to keep your new well system operating at peak capacity. A properly constructed and maintained well can provide a lifetime of safe drinking water for you and your family.

## Your Well's Condition: A Checklist

*The well log will contain much of the information needed to complete this checklist.*

### Well Location

- Surface water doesn't reach or is diverted from the well.
- The wellhead is visible and above ground. Preferably, no permanent structure should be located within 10 feet of the wellhead, allowing proper access for future repairs and service.
- The well should be located as far away as possible from any potential pollution sources, and these distances should meet or exceed all state, county or local requirements.

### Well Construction and Maintenance

- The well should be a drilled well, not a dug or driven well. If it is a dug or driven well, it should be brought up to current standard or code.
- The lining of the well (the casing) is 12 or more inches above the land surface. In flood prone areas, the casing is one to two feet above the highest recorded flood level. This ensures that no substances can wash into the well.
- There should be no visible holes or cracks in the well cap or casing. Well caps should be vermin proof, watertight and securely attached to the well casing.
- The casing depth should be sufficient to meet state and local codes.
- Measures are taken to prevent backflow (reverse flow in water pipes) and, where necessary, anti-backflow devices are installed.
- The well has been regularly inspected and records are available.



# Frequently Asked Questions & Answers About Wells

*Question: What type of treatment is needed for a well system?*

**Answer:** Well water is naturally better! So it's likely that your well water won't need any treatment. Before you consider treatment, you should have your water tested. The test results will help you decide what (if any) treatment you may need. Then, your water well contractor or a licensed water treatment professional in your area can recommend the best treatment technology for your well.

*Question: What type of maintenance is required on a well?*

**Answer:** You should inspect your wellhead several times a year, and have your well system – including the pump, storage tank, pipes, valves, and water flow – inspected annually by a qualified well driller or pump installer. Water testing should be performed annually or more often as necessary. For more information, see the wellcare® information sheets on “Well Maintenance” and “Drinking Water Testing,” available at [www.watersystemscouncil.org](http://www.watersystemscouncil.org).

*Question: Are there ever times when you have to watch your well water consumption so as not to run your well dry?*

**Answer:** Moderate to severe drought conditions are a fact of life in more than half of the nation. Some utilities and local and state governments have declared mandatory water conservation measures, even for private well owners. For more



information, see the wellcare® information sheets on “Water Conservation,” “What to do if the Well Runs Dry,” and “Ground Water Withdrawals,” available on the WSC website.

*Question: What do I do to prevent a disruption in service due to a power outage?*

**Answer:** Electricity is needed to operate your well pump. You can avoid disruptions of service by planning ahead. Install a larger-than-required prepressurized diaphragm tank, and try to minimize water usage during a power outage. An alternative backup power supply, such as a generator, is also recommended. For more information, see the wellcare® information sheet on “Wells: What to Do When the Power Fails,” available on the WSC website.