



SPRING 2023

wellcare® Hotline: 888-395-1033

Dear Well Owners Network Member:

Spring is in the air, and it is 'well'onderful! 😊

It is also the time of year we remind you to check everything - your well, your water, water treatment if applicable, and your septic. Don't snooze on spring maintenance! In this hot off the presses edition, we'll discuss how all of these important systems need your attention.

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](#). Don't forget to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) for extra tips, industry news, and more!

Your Well

Time for Spring Maintenance



This is your annual alarm for well maintenance! Well maintenance is important to make sure your well system lasts for years to come. We have so many homeowners who put off the essential maintenance only to find they need extensive repairs or a new well. Do not wait! The cost of visual inspection and water testing are minimal to what repairs can be.

Here is your spring water well checklist:

Visually inspect your wellhead. Check the well covering, casing, well cap or seal to make sure all are in good condition, leaving no cracks or other entry points for potential pollutants like pesticides and nitrates from a nearby farm and/or livestock field runoff.

Check around your well for overgrowth and make sure the area around the well is free and clear of plants, roots, and leaves, and the soil slopes away from your well.

Keep paint, chemicals, fuel, oil, etc., as far away from the well. They can be a future source of groundwater contamination.

Look for leaks inside and outside your home. Find more tips for finding and fixing leaks during "Fix a Leak Week", March 20-26, 2023, and on their [website](#).

Have the well system inspected every 5 years by a licensed well contractor, including the pump, storage tank, pipes, valves, water level, and flow.

If you have no inspection record and cannot determine the age of the well, **have it inspected immediately** by a licensed well contractor.

Make sure any abandoned wells on the property are sealed properly by a licensed well contractor.

For more information on well inspection and maintenance download our free [Well Owner's Manual](#). It is also available in Spanish from the same link. In this publication, you can also find a place to keep records of any water testing and well maintenance. If you prefer a hard copy, send your name and mailing address to info@wellcarehotline.org.

Your Water

Testing your water is the only way to ensure your water quality is safe for you and your family. Remember that you are solely responsible for the quality of your drinking water. It is up to you to decide when and how to test your water. We have recommendations!



Recommended Testing

At a minimum, your water should be tested every year for bacteria, anything of local concern, or any contaminants that you are monitoring from previous test results.

Testing more than once a year may be warranted in special circumstances:

- Someone in your household is pregnant or nursing
- There are unexplained illnesses in the family
- Your neighbors find a dangerous contaminant in their water
- You note a change in the taste, odor, color, or clarity of the water
- There is a spill of chemicals or fuels into or near your well

If you have a situation that is mentioned above, follow the comprehensive testing recommendations below or call the [wellcare](#)® Hotline at 888-395-1033 for assistance on what to test for.

Comprehensive Testing

If you have noticed a change in your water or you have not tested it in several years, do a comprehensive test to find out if there are any contaminants of concern. Even if there is no contaminant found, this will give you a baseline that you can compare to in the future.

Finding a Testing Lab

You can view lists of certified water testing laboratories for each U.S. state and Canadian province by using [our interactive map](#).

Water testing discounts are available for those impacted by the Ohio derailment and all wellcare® Well Owners Network members. Please contact us for details at info@wellcarehotline.org or 888.395.1033.

For more tips, see our brochure on [Well Water Testing](#).

Your Water Treatment

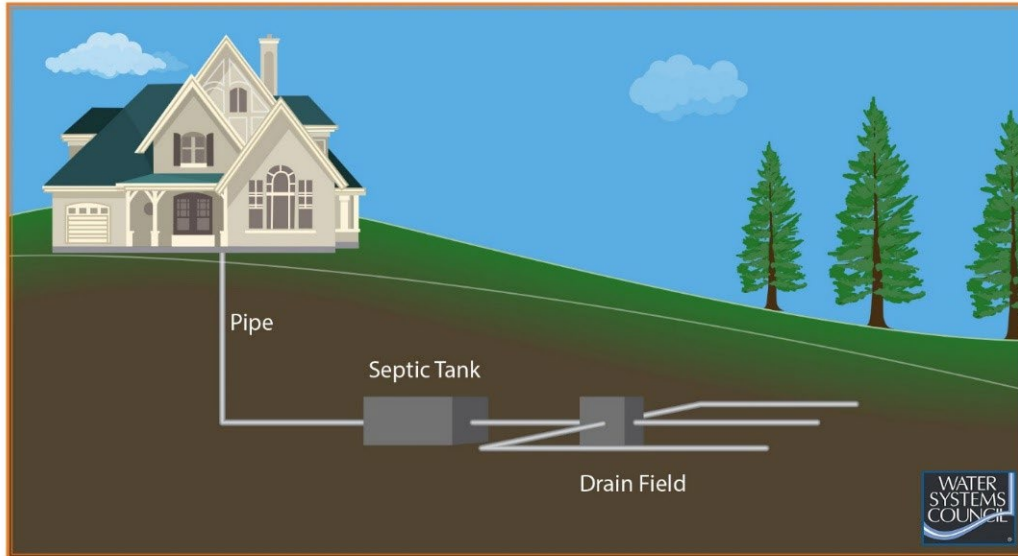


Don't fret if you do not have water treatment! You should note that not all water needs to be treated. You should also know that not all water treatment works for all water quality. We like to say there is not a 'one treatment fits all' approach to water quality. It is more complex and can cause more harm than good if the wrong treatment system is installed or is not needed at all. **It is imperative to test your water first before considering or installing water treatment.**

If you have water treatment, it is equally important to have these systems maintained per your water treatment professional or manufacturer's recommendations. If you do not have a water treatment professional, visit [Water Quality Association's website](#) to find a professional in your area.

For more information see our [wellcare® information sheet](#) on [Water Treatment](#).

Your Septic



Septic systems require regularly scheduled maintenance just like wells. See our tips below.

Proper maintenance of a septic system includes:

- Regular inspection every 1 to 2 years
- Having the system pumped every 3 to 5 years, depending on demand
- Conserving water to reduce the amount of demand placed on the system and to prolong its useful life

Protecting Your Septic Throughout the Year

Everyone in the household must consider what is flushed into the septic system. There are certain items that can reduce or damage the natural function of the septic system. Avoid flushing items that can clog the system or chemicals that can contaminate ground and surface water, and potentially damage the biological components of the system. **DO NOT** flush grease, fats, oils, bandages, feminine hygiene products, disposable diapers, wipes - even ones that say 'flushable', pharmaceuticals or medicines, paper towels, kitty litter, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, dental floss, hair, paint, pesticides, varnish, thinners, waste oil, or other chemicals. Ideally, **ONLY** water and household detergents are flushed into the system. The septic system's drain field

must also be protected. The following strategies are recommended to protect the field and prolong its functional life:

- **Do not** drive over the drain field with cars, trucks, or heavy equipment.
- **Do not** plant trees or shrubbery in the drain field area as roots can plug or damage the wastewater distribution lines.
- **Do not** cover the drain field with hard surfaces such as concrete or asphalt.
- **Use grass to cover the area.** It will help prevent erosion and help remove excess water.
- **Divert surface runoff** water from roofs, patios, driveways, and other areas away from the drain field.

A properly maintained septic system poses no threat to the groundwater that supplies a household well. However, wastewater from a failing septic system can carry contaminants such as nitrates, harmful bacteria, and viruses into groundwater and potentially the well.

For more information download our free wellcare® information sheet on [Your Septic System](#).

Hotline HOT Topic: Buying a Home with a Well

Check out our new infographic! Click the infographic to read our information sheet on [Buying a Home with a Well](#).

What You Need to Know When...

Buying a Home with a Well



1 Inspection



- Use a licensed well contractor
- Make sure you get a flow/yield test
- Find out the age of the well
- Check the well construction
- Inspect the well components
- Measure water depth

2 Well Records

- Most states have databases where you may be able to find your well record
- It is imperative to compare the data on the original well record to the data that is gathered during inspection



3 Well Water Testing



- Only use certified labs. Visit our website for a list in your area: wellcarehotline.org/well-water-testing-contractors
- Have comprehensive water testing performed
- Recommended testing parameters can be found in our Well Water Testing brochure or information sheet or by contacting the wellcare® Hotline. Visit wellcarehotline.org/water-well-care-wellcare-info-sheets

4 Water Treatment

- What type of treatment is installed and what is it treating?
- Name and number of company used for maintenance
- Request a list of all regular maintenance: dates, what was completed, cost



5 Septic Systems



- Age of the system
- Request maintenance records from the current owner
- Have the system inspected and tested



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!](#)

Connect with us



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