Protect Your PRIVATE WELL

Many Americans receive their drinking water from a private well. These wells are not regulated by EPA or required to follow EPA’s standards. If you use a private well, there are steps you can take to protect your water and ensure the safety of your drinking water.

For more information, visit: epa.gov/privatewells

HOW WELLS CAN BECOME CONTAMINATED

- Fuel tanks
- Septic tanks and sewer lines
- Lawns—fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides
- Swimming pool chemicals
- Factories and industrial manufacturing
- Farms and animal feedlots
- New construction and mining operations
- Cemeteries

HOW TO REMEDIATE YOUR WELL

If your well is contaminated or damaged, consult with your public health department, certified well inspector, and/or licensed well contractor to determine options for repair and remediation. Potential solutions include:

- Digging a new, deeper well
- Installing a sanitary seal and slope the area around the well to drain surface runoff
- Identifying a new water source
- Disinfectants to remove germs and microbes
- Filters or other on-site treatment processes
- Have your water tested annually for contaminants
- Always use a state certified laboratory for testing
- If contaminant levels exceed a drinking water standard, retest the water supply immediately and contact your public health department for assistance

HOW TO PREVENT Well Water Pollution

Keep hazardous chemicals out of septic systems and away from your well
Pump and inspect septic systems as recommended by your local health department
Install a sanitary seal and slope the area around the well to drain surface runoff
 Hire a certified well driller for any new well construction or modification

PAY ATTENTION to Your Well Surroundings and ASK QUESTIONS

Find out about facilities that may pollute your drinking water.
Attend planning or zoning meetings and ask questions about how your water sources will be protected.
Ask to see a project’s environmental impact statement.
Check if water sources have been addressed.

AROUND YOUR WELL

- Fuel tanks
- Septic tanks and sewer lines

AROUND YOUR COMMUNITY

- Lawns—fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides
- Swimming pool chemicals
- Factories and industrial manufacturing
- New construction and mining operations
- Cemeteries

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