



# Private Well Owner Tip Sheet

October, 2017

Have a question?

Visit the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033



888-395-1033 FREE

## Wealth of resources at well owners' fingertips



Over the past two years, private well owners have gained access to an unprecedented number of practical tools and resources to help them be good stewards of their wells and groundwater.

This is possible thanks to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Rural Community Assistance Partnership's

## Questions of the month



**Q:** How often should I test my water?

**A:** It depends. The NGWA recommends that well owners test annually for bacteria and nitrate, though organizations may differ on their recommendations.

Changing circumstances might warrant water testing at more frequent intervals. Three examples are (1) a sudden change in water quality, (2) the occurrence of a nearby chemical spill, or (3) contamination spreading in groundwater over time that is approaching nearby wells.

Conversely, some contaminants, once discovered, may not need to be tested again because they exist naturally in the subsurface and, therefore, the groundwater, and will always be present. Examples would be arsenic and radon.

Anytime there is a change in your water's taste, odor, or appearance—or a noticeable

collaboration to improve private well water quality through well owner education. Other partners include the National Ground Water Association (NGWA), the University of Illinois, and the Water Systems Council.

Following is a catalogue of online resources:

## National Ground Water Association

- [17 lessons](#)
- [15 recorded webinars](#)
- [Well financing video](#)
- [Well owner app](#)
- [Well owner manual](#)
- [Private Well Owner Tip Sheets](#)
- [Water well system and water treatment system professionals lists](#)
- [Drinking water testing laboratories lists](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#) (print and CD-ROM versions are forthcoming)

## University of Illinois

[10-lesson class](#)

[16 short groundwater and wells videos](#)

[Recorded monthly webinars](#)

[Podcasts on private well topics](#)

Spanish language versions of the 10-lesson class and short videos are forthcoming.

## Water Systems Council

[Phone hotline](#)

[HELP emergency response PSA, video, print, and web materials](#)

[Well regulations report](#)

[Well owner manual](#)

[Children's water festival](#)

[5 Wellcare® information brochures](#)

[Wellcare® newsletter](#)

Consider skimming through these tools to see what might be useful to you. Also consider sharing them with well owners you know.

decrease of water flow into your well—you should test your water. Discuss the symptoms with your water well system professional or a drinking water testing laboratory for recommendations on what to test.

Sudden changes in water quality could signal that the well needs to be cleaned or that surface water is infiltrating the well through a breach in the well system. Well maintenance often can restore water quality to previous conditions. Learn more about water testing [here](#).

**Q:** Should I test water from my water treatment system periodically?

**A:** Yes. First, check the water treatment system owner's manual for recommendations on water testing. If you do not have that information, contact the manufacturer or go online to see if you can find the maintenance information for your product's make and model.

Generally, treated water should be tested after the treatment system is installed to make sure it is working. You also can test the water after the treatment system is serviced to make sure it is working properly. Another reason to test is if the treatment system has not been maintained according to the product maintenance recommendations. Neglecting maintenance such as the timely replacement or cleaning of a filter could impair the treatment system's effectiveness.

## Get organized!

As a private water well owner, you are the manager of your water system. That means you oversee well system maintenance, water testing, and water treatment if necessary. You can be blissfully unaware of these things—until something goes wrong—or you can be aware of what you need to check and when.

Stay on top of your well system and water quality by using one of these tools:

- Online well owner's manual

- [Well owner's mobile app](#)



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