



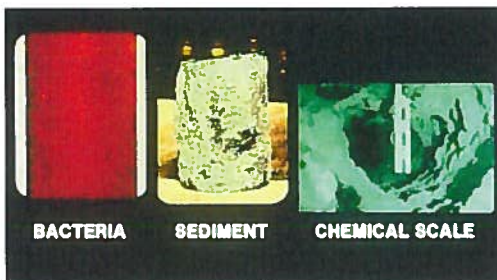
Private Well Owner Tip Sheet

November 2015

Have a question?

Visit the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033

S 888-395-1033 FREE



Does my well need cleaning?

Many well owners have never had their water well cleaned--yet cleaning the well is an appropriate and regular part of maintenance. A well can accumulate debris, biological slime growths, and natural encrustations that adversely affect water quality and well system operation.

Signs that well cleaning may be necessary are:

- Cloudy water
- An odor (i.e. rotten egg smell)
- Bad taste (i.e. fishy)
- The rate at which the well supplies water decreases

Bacteria often the cause

All these symptoms can be due to a fouling of the well system by bacteria. A simple anaerobic bacteria test can be sufficient to determine the need for cleaning. When anaerobic bacteria are abundant in the well, the sanitation is poor and in need of cleaning. A certified drinking water testing lab or your water well system professional can help you with a anaerobic bacteria test.

Other considerations

All wells require the temporary removal of the pump and isolation of water treatment or conditioning equipment to accomplish complete cleaning. Any equipment removed from the well should be protected from exposure to bacterial or chemical contamination. When this equipment is ready to be reinstalled, it should be cleaned and disinfected appropriately.

Learn more about water quality and well maintenance at www.WellOwner.org.

Well owners' manual coming

A Well Owner's Manual soon will be available with guidelines for homeowners, a maintenance schedule, a well log, and FAQs. The manual is being produced by the Water Systems Council (WSC) and will be available at its website. Some 15,000 hard copies will be distributed through regional offices of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership. Interested parties may also contact WSC to request hard copies.

Training webinar for real estate agents

The Private Well Class will present a webinar specifically for the real estate industry. This free, live web-based session will help real estate agents understand the water well issues important to prospective homeowners and important information about well water quality,

What parts of my well need cleaning?

Places in the well system where debris and organics accumulate are the:

- Bottom of the well
- Well casing that lines the borehole
- Screened well intake zones
- Gravel pack around the well intake

Chlorination might temporarily prevent taste and odor problems, but it leaves behind debris or accumulated organics which are a food source for future bacterial growth.

How is the well cleaned?

Methods used to clean water wells fall into two categories:

- Mechanical (i.e. using high-velocity or high pressure water, or tools to brush or surge the water)
- Chemical (usually involving various acids)

Mechanical and chemical cleaning methods are often used in tandem to get the best results.

how wells work, and answers to common questions. Participants can submit questions in advance or during the webinar, which will be recorded for later viewing.

What Realtors Need to Know about Homes with Well Water

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