

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.

How to PROTECT Your Well

TEST YOUR WELL WATER ANNUALLY



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

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:



Disinfectants to remove germs and microbes.



Filters or other on-site treatment processes.



Identifying a new water source.



Digging a new, deeper well.

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.

HOW WELLS CAN BECOME CONTAMINATED

Wells can become contaminated by sources around your well and your community. A few examples include:

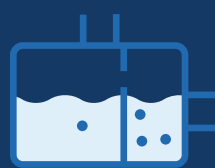
AROUND YOUR WELL



Fuel tanks



Lawns—fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides



Septic tanks and sewer lines

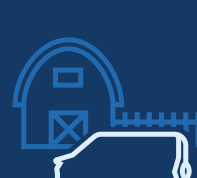


Swimming pool chemicals

AROUND YOUR COMMUNITY



Factories and industrial manufacturing



Farms and animal feedlots



New construction and mining operations



Cemeteries

For more information, visit: epa.gov/privatewells