

HOMEOWNERS WELL MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION CHECKLIST

General:

- Know where your well is located.
- If available, refer to your well water record for details about your well.
- Regularly monitor for changes in the taste, odour and colour of your well water.
- Ensure all potential contamination sources are kept away from the well (e.g. fuel, chemicals, livestock, etc.)
- Prevent the use and storage of chemicals in the vicinity of the well (e.g. fertilizer, salt, fuel, etc.)
- Sample your well water following potential contamination events such as flooding or chemical spills (e.g. fuel spills).
- Disinfect the well with household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) after performing any work on the inside of the well or following maintenance of pumping equipment.
- When a well is no longer in use, abandon the well in accordance with Ontario Regulation 903, Wells. Contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for more information.

Sampling:

Every 3 to 4 months or at least 3 times per year:

- Test for bacteria (total coliform and E.coli).

At least once a year:

- Test for sodium and nitrates.

Inspecting Your Well:

Early spring or late fall is typically a good time to inspect your well. **NEVER ENTER A WELL OR WELL PIT AT ANYTIME.**

Always contact a licenced well contractor or water treatment specialist for assistance when needed.

Dug & Bored Wells: General Recommendations

- Inspect the area immediately outside the well for areas of ground depression, evidence of ponding and sources of contamination.
- Ensure sources of pollution are not located within 30 M (100 ft.) of a dug or bored well (e.g. garbage, chemicals, salt, septic systems, manure piles, gasoline, compost, etc.)
- Ensure an animal free zone (pets, livestock) is maintained around the well head.
- Ensure the ground slopes away a minimum of 3 meters (10 ft.) from the outside of the well in all directions to ensure proper drainage. A grass buffer is recommended.
- Ensure the well cover or well cap is securely in place, in good condition and properly sealed.
- Inspect the inside of the well or well pit by removing the well cover. Ensure there is no evidence of insects, animals, tree roots or other debris inside the well or well pit.
- From the ground surface, remove any debris floating in the well water. Also check for any sheen on the water.
- Check for signs of surface water seeping into the well or well pit. A well pit should not contain any standing water.
- Check the seals around plumbing inlets. Replace seals if water is seeping in from outside the well.
- Check for seepage into the well or well pit through cracks in the casing. Look for stains on the inside of the casing.
- Ensure all cracks or joints in the well casing are properly sealed.
- Prevent debris from entering the well or well pit.
- If the well casing is buried or is too low, extend the casing above grade to a minimum height of 40 centimeters (16") above ground level.

Drilled Wells: General Recommendations

- Inspect the area immediately outside the well for areas of ground depression, evidence of ponding and sources of contamination.
- Ensure sources of pollution are not located within 15 M (50 ft.) of a drilled well (e.g. garbage, chemicals, salt, septic systems, manure piles, gasoline, compost, etc.)
- Ensure an animal free zone (pets, livestock) is maintained around the well head.
- Ensure the ground slopes away a minimum of 3 meters (10 ft.) from the outside of the well in all directions to ensure proper drainage. A grass buffer is recommended.
- Ensure the well cap is securely in place, in good condition and properly sealed. Replace old style well caps with newer style well caps to ensure a sanitary well seal.
- Ensure well cap vent screens are in good condition and clear of debris.
- If the well casing is buried or is too low, extend the casing or well head above grade to a minimum height of 40 centimeters (16") above ground level.