



HOMEOWNERS WELL MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION CHECKLIST

General

- Know where your well is located.
- Extend the casing (or well head) above grade, if buried or too low to the ground to a minimum of 40 cm (16") above ground level.
- Ensure your well is provided with a sanitary seal or cover that is in good condition and fitted properly.
- Mound up the ground around the outside of the well or well pit with clean earth.
- Keep all potential contamination sources away from the well (e.g., septic systems, land fills, fuel storage, refueling station, chemical storage).
- Prevent the use and storage of fertilizer, salt, or gasoline in the vicinity of the well
- Maintain a permanent grassed buffer at least 3 m (10 ft.) around your well.
- Watch for changes in the taste, odour and colour of the water.
- Sample for other chemicals if you have concerns (e.g. fuel spills).
- Disinfect the well with plain bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) after doing any work on the inside of the well or after maintaining pumping equipment.
- When a well is no longer in use, plug and seal it properly in accordance with the Ministry of the Environment's Wells Regulation, O.Reg. 903.
- If you have lightning rod protection, do not ground the system to your drilled well casing. Use a separate grounding rod.

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

- Have a sample tested for bacteria.

At least once a year

- Test for sodium AND nitrate-nitrogen to verify contaminant source from septic system.
- Inspect the cover or sanitary seal for cracks and holes.
- Check the condition of well vents to ensure they are unobstructed and the vent is screened to prevent the entry of vermin into the well.
- Examine around the well.
 - Check for settling of the ground around the outside of the well casing.

___ Check for ponding of water.

___ Check for potential sources of contamination.

___ Remove animal waste and leaves from collecting in the area around the well.

Inspect the inside of the well by removing cover (for dug or bored wells). Early spring just after the snow has melted is a good time. **WARNING: DO NOT ENTER THE WELL OR**

___ **WELL PIT AT ANYTIME DURING AN INSPECTION.**

___ Check seal around plumbing inlets into the well casing (dug, bored well or well pit).

___ Replace seal if water is seeping in from outside the well.

___ Check for seepage through cracks or stains on the inside of the casing.

___ Check for signs of surface water seeping or running freely into the well.

___ Ensure all cracks or joints in the well casing are properly sealed.

___ Remove any debris floating in the well if within reach. Only licensed well borers should enter a well.

___ Ensure the cover or seal is securely in place and watertight.

___ Prevent further debris from entering the well.

___ Compare your well construction to the diagrams that show proper techniques.