

Water Well Maintenance

- Every year, homeowners should do a thorough inspection of their home water well. At least every 10 years you should have your well inspected by a professional. Make sure your well has a sanitary well cap. Maintain a minimum 50-foot radius wellhead protection area around your well. Do not spray chemicals within the wellhead protection area.
- Every year test your home drinking water for coliform bacteria.
- Every three years test for pH, Total Dissolved Solids, and other contaminants based on activities occurring locally. If you live near agricultural operations test for nitrates, and pesticides.
- All water tests should be done by a certified lab.
www.dep.state.pa.us/labs or at 1-888-DEP-SAFE
- After getting your water tested, compare your results to the drinking water standards established by the state. If you have questions, contact your County's Penn State Cooperative Extension Educator. To locate a qualified well driller visit **www.wellowner.org**.

Solving Problems

If after testing your water, you find a problem with the quality, there are several options that you can take to ensure that you have a clean source of drinking water.

- Develop a new source of water (drill a new well, develop a new spring, etc.)
- Control the source of pollution (divert runoff)
- Conduct maintenance of your water system (install a sanitary well cap, slope ground, etc.)
- Install water treatment devices.

Additional Information

If you have questions about private water system management, contact your County Cooperative Extension Educator or the Master Well Owner Network at 814-863-0194

Visit <http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu/water/> to view publications regarding wells, drinking water, and water testing