

Is Your Private Water Supply Fit to Drink?

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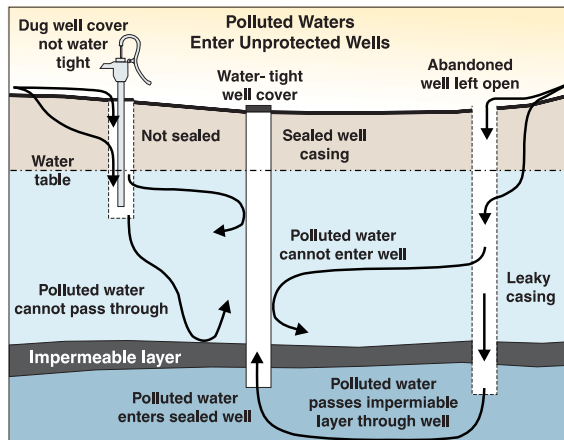
If you are not on a municipal water supply system than it is the responsibility of you, the homeowner, to keep your private water supply safe and free of contamination. Properly constructed and maintained private water supply systems can regularly provide clean, sanitary drinking water. These simple steps will help protect your system and investment:

Check professional credentials and keep records. Always use licensed, registered water well drillers and pump installers when a well is constructed, a pump is installed or the system is serviced.

Test annually. An annual well maintenance check, including a test for bacteria, nitrates, pH, and total dissolved solids (TDS) is recommended. You should test more often if someone is pregnant or nursing,

someone develops an unexplained illness, you notice a change in taste, odor or appearance of your water, or you identify a contaminant that has the potential to enter your water supply. For more information on having your home water supply test contact Kari Umphrey at (716) 394-3977 ext. 32.

Keep hazardous chemicals away from well. Paint, fertilizer, pesticides and motor oil should be



Ground water contamination can also occur through well abandonment.

stored, and used far away from your well. Each spring, the Ontario County Department of Recycling and Landfill Management sponsors a household hazardous waste collection day. Take advantage of this opportunity to dispose of hazardous chemicals you may have around your home. A better alternative is to use non-toxic substitutes.

Monitor well cap. Periodically check the well cap to ensure it not damaged.

Landscape properly. Keep the top of your well at least one foot above the ground. Slope the ground away from your well for proper drainage.

Test your soil before applying fertilizers to avoid having excess amounts leach into groundwater.

Pick up pet wastes. Distance pets and wildlife, including birds at feeders, away from your well.

Take care of your septic system. Improperly functioning septic systems are a primary source of nitrate contamination in private wells.

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Program

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