

# HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

## How To Keep Your Water Well System Safe

(NAPSA)—Ground water is a plentiful source of drinking water. More than 45 percent of Americans rely on ground water from wells for their drinking water supply.

When you own a well, it is your responsibility to make sure the water is safe. Routine maintenance can help eliminate water quality problems and prolong the life of your water well system.

Following are some other basic steps from the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) to help keep your water well system safe.

### Is Your Water Well System Clean?

A common mistake by homeowners is to test their well water without first making sure the water well system is clean. Testing water from a dirty well can lead to false positives—the appearance of contamination even when the ground water is clean. A dirty well can also harbor contaminants such as certain types of bacteria.

A qualified water well system contractor can determine if your water well system needs cleaning.

### Cleaning Your Water Well System

A common misconception of homeowners is that chlorine alone will clean a well—the more, the better. However, chlorine is an effective disinfectant only after debris and other solid material are removed from the well. A qualified water well system contractor is equipped to properly clean your water well system.

### Testing Your Well Water

NGWA recommends well owners test the water:

- At least annually for bacteria, nitrates/nitrites and any contaminants of local concern.



**Fresh clean water can be easy to enjoy out of your own well.**

- More frequently than once a year if there is a change in the taste, odor or appearance of the water, or if a problem occurs such as a broken well cap or a new contamination source.

### Water Well System Treatment

Should any contaminants above levels of health concern remain after proper cleaning and disinfection of the water well system, it does not mean you cannot use your ground water. A water treatment device may resolve any water quality issues. A qualified professional water well system contractor can advise you on how to proceed.

When considering a water treatment device, make sure its specifications match up to the substances and concentrations you wish to treat.

### Learn More

To read an article called “Eight Tips for Maintaining Your Well,” visit [www.wellowner.org](http://www.wellowner.org).