

# WELL OWNER TIP SHEET: PROTECTING GROUNDWATER

It's your job as a well owner to protect groundwater. You're the manager of your water well system and your actions have a direct impact on the groundwater you and your family rely on for your water needs.

Keep groundwater protection in mind when...

## BUILDING OR MODIFYING A WELL

- Be sure to work with a qualified contractor.
- Slope the ground away from the wellhead so surface runoff drains away from the well.

## MAINTAINING THE WELL

- Check all visible parts of your well system for problems on a monthly basis.
- Test your well water regularly — a minimum of once per year.
- Keep accurate well records in a safe and accessible place.
- Have your well inspected by a qualified professional on a regular basis. Visit [Wellowner.org](http://Wellowner.org)'s Contractor Directory to find a professional in your area.



## PREVENT PROBLEMS

Being proactive and preventing problems before they begin are vital in protecting groundwater. Some ways to prevent groundwater contamination while maintaining your well:

- Install a locking well cap or sanitary seal to prevent unauthorized use of, or entry into, the well.
- Do not mix or use pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, degreasers, fuels, or other pollutants near the well.
- Never dispose of wastes in dry or abandoned wells.
- Have your septic system inspected and pumped as often as your local health department recommends.
- Be cautious when working or mowing around your well to avoid damaging the wellhead or water distribution line.



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