

# WELL OWNER TIP SHEET: ROUTINE MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

Routine maintenance and inspection of water wells can help protect water quality, ensure your well is operating properly, prolong the useful life of the well system, and protect your investment. The greatest of all these is the protection of your health, as water quality issues can have adverse health impacts without any detectable indicators.

## AN ANNUAL WATER WELL CHECKUP SHOULD INCLUDE:

- a flow test
- visual inspection
- a water quality test for coliform and anaerobic bacteria, nitrates, and anything else of local concern
- checking valves
- electrical testing



A written report should be delivered to you following completion of an annual checkup. The report should include recommendations and all laboratory and other test results. Keep this in a safe place with all other well reports.

If possible, develop a relationship with your preferred well contractor. Similar to any other skilled practitioner, the water well systems professional may be available to advise you over the phone if an issue sounds to be like something worth investigating with a service call, or something that can be noted for the next annual checkup.

Municipal and other public water supply wells are subject to maintenance and inspection as part of utility asset management because they are key parts of a safe water supply. Subject to the same challenges, your private well is your safe water supply, and your NGWA recommends treating it as a valuable asset, which it is.

## WHY IS A CHECKUP IMPORTANT?

A properly constructed and maintained household-supply well will provide you with many years of quality service. The National Ground Water Association recommends routine annual maintenance checks to ensure the proper operation of the well and prolong its years of service, as well as monitor the water quality. Routine inspection of a water well system can help ensure it is operating properly, prolong its useful life, and protect your investment. Most importantly, inspections can protect your health by discovering issues that could result in water quality problems presenting a health risk.



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