

Water Well System Maintenance Self-Evaluation Checklist

- Guard water well head by keeping surface contaminants away.
- Inspect outer area around the well head or tank for any structural damage yearly.
- Take a yearly water sample.
- Hire a licensed professional water well contractor to service and maintain the well.

Water Well Resource List

Peoria City/County Health Department
2116 N. Sheridan Rd. • Peoria, IL. 61604
Phone: 309.679.6161
www.pcchd.org

**Illinois Dept. of Public Health,
Division of Environmental Health,
Water Well Program**
525 W. Jefferson St. • Springfield, IL 62761
Phone: 217.782.5830
www.idph.state.il.us

Illinois State Geological Survey
615 E. Peabody Dr. • Champaign, IL 61820
Phone: 217.333.9043
www.sws.uiuc.edu/

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.state.il.us

National Ground Water Association
601 Dempsey Rd. • Westerville, OH 43081
Phone: 800.551.7379
www.ngwa.org

Water Systems Council (WSC)
Phone: 888.395.1033
www.watersystemcouncil.org

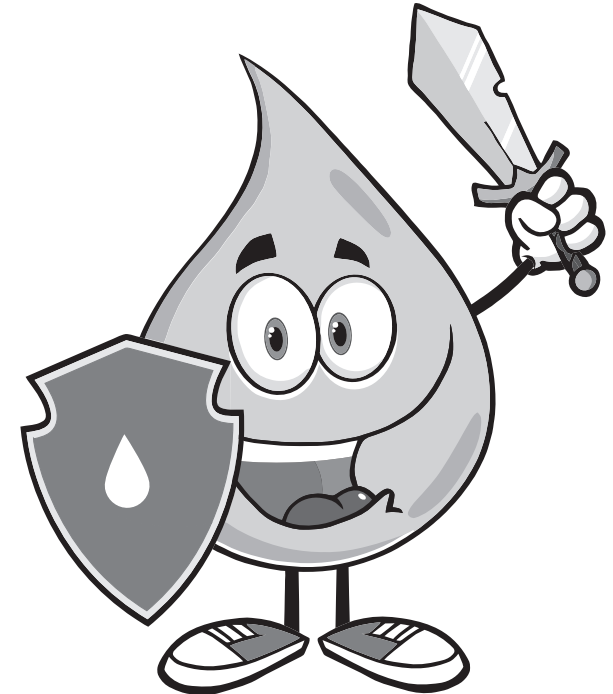


Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Peoria City/County
Health Department**
Environmental Health
309/679-6161
2116 N. Sheridan Rd.
Peoria, Illinois 61604
www.pcchd.org

environmentalhealth@peoriacounty.org

Protect Your Drinking Water



Proper Care and Maintenance of a Water Well

- Tips for Maintaining Your Well
- Testing Your Water
- Water Well System Maintenance Checklist
- Water Well Resource List

Tips for Maintaining Your Well

Prevent backflow in your home

Use back flow prevention devices (available at local hardware stores) on all outside faucets with hose connections to help keep pollutants from being pulled back into your safe water system.

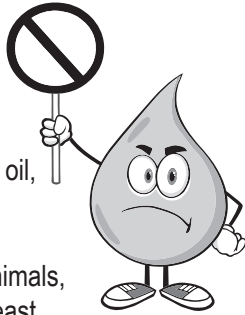
Visually inspect exposed parts of the well

Make sure there are no cracks or damage to the well casing or well cap, and the well cap fits tightly. Protect the well cap at all times, even from flooding. **Don't damage the well cap or cover it up!**

Keep contaminants away

Avoid mixing, using or storing hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, motor oil, gas, weed killer and other pollutants near the well.

Ensure barnyards, pets/animals, and feed lots are kept at least the minimum distance away from the well site.



Set a well maintenance schedule

The Peoria City/County Health Department recommends routine annual well maintenance checks by a licensed professional well contractor to help ensure water quality and proper operation of private wells.

Keep a file of all records associated with your well

If you don't already have a copy of your well construction report, ask your well driller for one. This report includes information about the well and its components, in addition to construction and contractor information. Create a log that includes all additional well maintenance, including disinfection, repairs, test results, and other preventative services performed.

Well Site Set-Back Distances

200 feet: Closed Loop Well; Abandoned Wells

75 feet: Septic Field; Manure Pile; Water Well (if two or more wells on the property)

50 feet: Septic Tank; Barnyard or Animal Confinement Lot; Sewers

25 feet: Lake, Pond, or Stream

5 feet: Pits, Crawl Spaces, or Basements

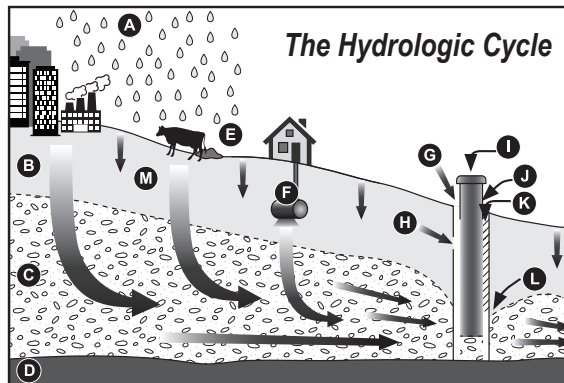
Test, test, test!

Remember, private water well owners have the primary responsibility to test well water for potential contaminants including bacteria, nitrates, nitrites, arsenic, uranium, fluoride, etc.

Seal abandoned wells

Abandoned and improperly sealed wells can be sources that may potentially pollute groundwater, which could make your drinking water unsafe.

Contact the Peoria City/County Health Department for more information on properly sealing abandoned wells.



The Hydrologic Cycle is the constant movement and endless recycling of water between the atmosphere, land surface, and under the ground. The aquifer can become contaminated by sources such as faulty septic systems, farm animals, chemicals (industrial, farm, or runoff), and naturally occurring elements which then contaminate your well.

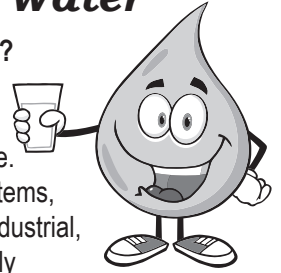
A) Precipitation; B) Soil; C) Aquifer; D) Confining Layer; E) Manure Pile/Feedlot; F) Leaking Septic Tank; G) Surface Flow through Grout Failure; H) Damaged Casing; I) Well Cap & Seal; J) Casing; K) Grouting; L) Cone of Depression; M) Percolation; - - - Water Table.

Testing Your Water

Why should I test my well?

It is your responsibility as a private well owner to ensure that the water is safe.

Sources such as septic systems, farm animals, chemicals (industrial, farm, or runoff), and naturally occurring elements can contaminate your well.



The Peoria City/County Health Department recommends testing your well water at least once per year for bacteria and nitrates/nitrites.

High levels of contamination can put you and your family's health at risk. Make sure your well water is safe by testing it annually.

How do I test my well water?

Water testing kits may be purchased in our office. The water tests available from the Health Department test for coliform and *E.coli* bacteria, nitrates, and nitrites. Our office will receive the results in 7 to 10 days, after which we will inform you of the results.

Testing is advised more than once a year for the following situations:

- If you notice any change in the taste, color, or odor of your water
- If someone in the household is pregnant or nursing
- If there is a chemical or fuel spill near your well
- If you have disinfected your well (to ensure the water is satisfactory)
- If there has been any flooding into or near your well to determine if the flood waters carried bacteria or other contaminants into the well system
- If there are unexplained illnesses in your family

