



## Public Health Department

Jeff Hamm  
Health Agency Director

Penny Borenstein, M.D., M.P.H.  
Health Officer



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

---

### WELL OWNER'S CHECKLIST

*From [www.wellowner.org/water-well-maintenance/homeowners-checklist/](http://www.wellowner.org/water-well-maintenance/homeowners-checklist/)*

As a private well owner, there are steps you can take to make sure that your water is safe to use. These simple steps will help protect your health and your water well system:

- ✓ Regularly test your water. Contaminants can come from animals, chemicals, household plumbing and some naturally occurring substances. Consider installing a treatment device.

---

- ✓ Environmental Health Services recommends that an initial water quality test for Primary Drinking Water Standards be conducted. An annual well maintenance check, including a water quality test, is also recommended. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends that well owners test annually for total coliform bacteria and nitrate in well water, unless the initial test indicates other contaminants of concern. If your well is near a landfill or other industrial/commercial businesses such as machine shops, dry cleaners, gas stations, or automobile repair shops, you should also test for volatile organic compounds (VOC's), metals, total dissolved solids (TDS) and petroleum hydrocarbons. It is also important to have your well tested whenever you suspect contamination or notice a change in taste, odor, or appearance of your water.

---

- ✓ Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well.

---

- ✓ Periodically check the well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair. Take care in working around your well. A damaged casing could jeopardize the sanitary protection of your well. Also routinely check water connections and your storage system, if applicable.

---

- ✓ Always maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems or chemical storage facilities. Your professional contractor knows the rules.

---

- ✓ Don't allow back-siphonage. When mixing pesticides, fertilizers, or other chemicals, don't put the hose inside the tank or container.

---

- ✓ When landscaping, keep the top of your well at least one foot above the ground. Slope the ground away from your well for proper drainage. Don't pile soil, leaves or other materials around your well.

---

- ✓ Always use licensed or certified water well drillers and pump installers when a well is constructed, a pump is installed, or the system is serviced.

---

- ✓ Keep your well records in a safe place. These include the construction report, as well as annual water well system maintenance and water quality testing results.

---

- ✓ When your well has come to the end of its serviceable life (usually 20+ years), have a qualified water well contractor decommission it after constructing your new system.

More information about private drinking water wells is available online at <http://www.epa.gov/privatewells> and [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Chemicalcontaminants.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Chemicalcontaminants.shtml)