

Presentation Title: Keeping your head above well water...  
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Category 5. Educations & Risk Communication - Presentation

## How to keep your head above well water. *A homeowner's guide to your well.*

Whether you have moved out to the country and are now the proud owner of a water well for the first time or you've relied on a water well most of your life, chances are you did not receive an owner's manual along with it. If your family gets drinking water from a private well, do you know if your water is safe to drink?

Today, there are more than 42 million people nationwide that get their drinking water from a private well. Most well owners enjoy the peace of mind that comes with knowing they have a reliable source of water that meets the demands of modern households. Wells are designed to provide clean, pure water, but must be properly maintained to avoid contamination. The safety of any water supply is largely dependent on the construction and maintenance of the water system.

Typically, groundwater is naturally clean and safe for consumption. The overlying soil acts as a filter so groundwater is usually free of disease causing microorganisms. However, contamination may occur following improper installation of well casings or caps, after a break in the casing or as a result of contaminated surface water entering the well. Contamination can also occur if wells are drilled in a fractured bedrock without an adequate layer of protective soil and with less than recommended casing length.

Private water supplies are not regulated like public water systems. They do not have experts regularly checking the water's source and its quality before it is sent to the tap. Failure to properly maintain a private water supply system would be like never having a mechanic check underneath the hood of your car until it breaks down. The difference is that your family is consuming what comes out of the well.

Households with wells must take simple preventative maintenance precautions such as routine water testing, well disinfections and well inspections in order to keep their drinking water clean and pure, prevent illness and keep the well operating at peak performance.