

Well, Well



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Yes, summer is here and it is time to start looking around to get some preventative maintenance accomplished. Start by inspecting your systems wells. After the winter snow plowing, the spring thatching and basic spring clean-up duties, be sure to check to see if the well is still in good condition.

Following are some recommended standards to review as you are inspecting the well. Your systems well is the heart of the entire water system. In my opinion, your well is the most valuable piece of the system. If your well has a mechanical issue or a test sample comes back positive from the laboratory, it is possible that your situation will turn into a really complex problem, besides being quite the day changer.



Photo above: well in good condition.

We all understand that a little bit of prevention and inspection beforehand can save a lot of problems down the road. I have talked to a couple of well companies and they will set up

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inspections for your wells at your convenience. If possible, schedule inspections in advance; it can and will take the stress off both you and the well company.

Here is a list of recommended standards for operating and maintaining your water system, I am hoping that you find it helpful.

Recommended Standards For Operating and Maintaining Your Water System:

*Know the location of your well and inspect the well on a routine basis.



Photo above: well with broken electrical conduit.

*Provide a secure and intact well cap. Older well caps often do a poor job of keeping insects and dirt out of the well. If possible, replace older caps with an overlapping well cap that includes a compression gasket and screened vent.

- *Be sure the well casing extends at least one foot above the ground surface to reduce the possibility of surface water or other contaminants from entering the well. Avoid landscaping projects that reduce the distance between the ground and the top of the well casing to keep less than the required minimal distance.
- *The casing shall be vented to atmosphere. For community water supplies, the vent shall end at least 18 inches above the finished floor elevation.
- *The floor grade of the well/ pump house shall be at least one foot above the highest known flood level and 6 inches above grade.
- *Direct surface and roof runoff away from the well. Surface water should not collect within 50 feet of the well.
- *Community public water supply wells must have a minimum distance of 50 feet from any contamination source.
- *Discharge piping shall be equipped with a check valve, shut off valve, pressure gauge, meter, sampling tap, and an air release vacuum relief valve located upstream from the check valve.
- *A well house floor drain, when not connected to a sanitary sewer, shall be connected to a gravel pocket. The gravel pocket shall be at least 30 feet from the well.
- *Protect wells from potential vehicle damage. Direct vehicular traffic away from the well or surround the well casing with ridged posts or large rocks to help protect the well from damage.

*To the extent possible, remove any potential source of contamination from the area near the well. All new wells must meet the minimum requirements for separation from potential contaminate sources.

*At least two pumping (booster) units shall be provided.

*Water used for priming or lubricating the pumps must not be of lesser sanitary quality than that of the pumped water.

Below and at left on page 22 are photo examples of wells that have been kept in good condition. Examples of poor well conditions are shown at right and on below on page 22.



Photo above: well with cap off. Photos below show wells in good condition.



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