VIQUA

4 Steps to Good Well Stewardship

43M

Americans—roughly 15% of the U.S. population—**get their drinking water from private wells.**[1]

Unlike municipal-supplied water, **private well water is not regulated**, which means well owners are responsible for ensuring the quality of their water supply.

To be a good steward of a private well, follow these four steps.

1 Understand what affects well water quality.

Water quality isn't static. It changes over time due to:

- Seasonality changes
- Snowmelt
- Heavy rains and flooding
- Leaking septic systems
- Changes in land use

Just because water is good today doesn't mean it will be good tomorrow.

2 Properly maintain the physical well.

- Regularly check that **the well casing** is securely attached and not damaged.
- Store **hazardous chemicals**, like fertilizers, pesticides, and paint, away from your well.
- Don't pile **snow, leaves, or other landscaping materials** around the well.
- Perform an **annual well maintenance check** to evaluate water flow, pump performance, and electrical connections.

3 Test well water for bacteria and nitrates at least once a year.

Testing pinpoints the possible risk that disease-causing microorganisms could be present in the water and provides an indication of general water quality at a certain point in time.

TESTING SHOULD BE DONE:

- **During the warmer months**, as water has a higher probability of being impacted by external influences
- **When there's a change** to the water's color, taste, or odor
- **If the household is growing**
- **When unexplained gastrointestinal illness** impacts someone drinking the household's water
- If someone in the household has or **develops a weak immune system** from illness, medical treatment, or age

4 Implement a continuous water treatment solution.

Treating water with a whole-home water treatment system provides better water to every tap in the home.

- Easy installation and maintenance
- Small footprint
- No disinfection byproducts
- No change to water's taste or smell
- Effective against common waterborne pathogens, including *cryptosporidium, giardia, pathogenic E. coli (STEC/VTEC), campylobacter, legionella, salmonella, shigella, norovirus, enterovirus,* and *hepatitis A virus*[2]

Want to assess the risk of a well?

Get the VIQUA app to perform an on-site assessment of groundwater risk and get immediate results, including explanations of risk factors and potential steps for remediating those issues.

Apple App Store **Google Play Store**

[1] U.S. Geological Survey. "Domestic (Private) Supply Wells." March 1, 2019.

[2] Efficacy of VIQUA UV systems has been demonstrated in internal testing using surrogate organisms, specifically MS2 Phage. MS2 is a well-documented surrogate organism that is accepted in the water treatment industry in the design and testing of UV systems being used to treat cryptosporidium and giardia. Contact VIQUA for the details on internal testing performed.

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