

Time to schedule your annual well water checkup!

Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good season to have an annual well water checkup before the peak water use season begins, according to the National Ground Water Association (NGWA).

Why is it a good idea to have my well water checked annually?

An annual checkup by a qualified well water contractor is the best way to ensure problem-free service and quality water.

Also, preventative maintenance usually is less costly than emergency repairs, and good well maintenance-like good car maintenance-can prolong the life of your well and related equipment. NGWA recommends you test your well water whenever there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance, or when the system is serviced.

Schedule your annual well water checkup.

Wells can provide high-quality drinking water, and about half the U.S. population receives its drinking water from wells. But with well ownership comes the responsibility of keeping the well in good working order. A check of your well by a qualified well water contractor may include:

- A flow test to determine system output, along with a check of the water level before and during pumping (if possible), pump motor performance (check amp load, grounding, and line voltage), pressure tank and pressure switch contact, and general water quality (odor, turbidity, etc.).
- A well equipment inspection to assure it's sanitary and meets local code.

A test of your water for coliform bacteria and nitrates, and anything else of local concerns. Other typical additional tests are those for iron, manganese, water hardness, sulfides, and other water constituents that cause problems with plumbing, staining, water appearance, and odor. The Norton Board of Health suggests that the well be tested for drinking water quality, nitrate-nitrogen and arsenic yearly and volatile organics every 3 years.

The NGWA also recommend that well owners:

- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, motor oil and gasoline far away from you well, and maintain a "clean" zone of at least 50 feet between your well. The Norton Board of Health requires that all manure piles be kept 100 feet away from any well.
- Maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems and chemical storage areas.
- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached. Its seal should keep out insects and rodents.
- Keep your well records in a safe place. These include the construction report, and annual water well system maintenance and water testing results. (The Norton Board of Health suggests that a copy of the water testing results be filed with them.)

The Norton Board of Health requires that all private wells be tested prior to transfer:

At the time of any real estate transfer, a well inspection will be performed, which includes the location of the Private Potable and Non-Potable wells and testing in accordance with these regulations.

The seller shall provide a copy of the private well location and test results to the Town of Norton, Board of Health within thirty (30) days after the inspection has been completed and to the buyer prior to the closing but in no case less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the closing.