

How Can I Protect My Private Well and Water Supply?

Protect Your Well from Damage

- Check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair.
- Take care when working or mowing around your well. A damaged casing could jeopardize the sanitary protection of your well.

Protect Your Well From Contaminants

- Store hazardous chemicals, such as paint, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well.
- Maintain a “clean” zone of at least 50 feet (15.24 meters) between your well and any kennels or livestock operations.

Do It Yourself or Call a Professional?

- An annual well maintenance check, including a bacterial test, is recommended. Home owners can perform this test. Visit <http://bit.ly/1JAzlNK> for details.
- Drinking water should be professionally checked any time there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance, or when the well system is serviced. Visit <http://1.usa.gov/1lod4IC> for a list of Registered Water Well Drilling and Pump Installation Contractors.

Know the Area Near the Well

- 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.
- Always maintain proper space between your well and buildings, waste systems or chemicals.
- Don't pile snow, leaves, or other materials around your well.
- 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.

Record Keeping

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

Additional Resources Available

- For more information about protecting and maintaining your well visit www.wellowner.org.
- Local resources are also available by visiting the Barry-Eaton District Health Department (BEDHD) website at <http://bit.ly/1HGr9O4> or by visiting one of the BEDHD offices at 1033 Healthcare Drive in Charlotte or 330 W. Woodlawn Avenue in Hastings.



**Barry-Eaton District
Health Department**

Be Active • Be Safe • Be Healthy

For the Hastings office, call 269-945-9516

Ext. 35

For Charlotte office, call 517-541-2615.