Your new well: the first year

A private well is yours to look after. No agency tests it for you. These steps keep your water safe to drink.

1. Test your water

- Before you drink from a new well, have it tested for bacteria and nitrate. Ask your driller or county health department whether a test is required where you live, and keep a copy of the results with your well papers.
- No federal law makes you test your own well. EPA and CDC recommend testing every year for bacteria, nitrate, pH and dissolved solids.
- Test again after a flood, after work on the well, or if the water changes in taste, color or smell.
- Use a certified lab. Most test results come back in about a week.

2. Find out what is in wells near you

Scan the code, or go to **yourwaterreport.com/find/**, and type your ZIP code. You will see what tests have found in wells in your county, which tests to get, and certified labs near you.

Every number names its public source. The site is free.

3. Free or low-cost testing

- The Texas Well Owner Network, run by Texas A&M AgriLife, holds well water screenings in different counties through the year. It checks for bacteria (total coliform and E. coli) and nitrate, usually for $15 a sample and sometimes for free. Ask your county AgriLife Extension office when the next one is near you.

4. Take care of your well

- Keep the well cap tight and above the ground. Never bury it or pile soil or snow against it.
- Keep fertilizer, weed killer, fuel, oil and paint away from the well.
- Have your septic system checked and pumped on schedule, often every 3 to 5 years.
- Hire a licensed well driller or pump installer for repairs.

Your well was drilled by

_____

Phone _____ Date finished _____

YourWaterReport is a free, independent guide for private well owners, not a government agency. It cannot tell you whether your own well is safe; only a test of your water can. Questions or corrections: hello@yourwaterreport.com.