

# **HAPPY SPRING!!!**

It's that time again...for your annual well maintenance that is!

The safety and purity of your drinking water and the efficient operation of your private well system depends on a well-organized maintenance program. Protect your investments through regular inspection, testing and repair.

## ***Create a Well Maintenance Log***

The first step in properly maintaining your water system is creating a well maintenance log. Gather information on the history of your well system and water quality from the well log (also known as a water well record or drilling report). If you don't have a copy, ask your well contractor or contact your local health department.

The well log will include a reference number for the well, original site owner, location of the well, construction and contractor details, as well as the results from any water tests.

The well log should help establish the location, age and condition of the well. This information will provide the basis on which to schedule regular tests of water quality and inspections of well equipment, as well as regular maintenance and repairs.

## ***Set a Well Maintenance Schedule***

Plan for the maintenance of the wellhead, well system, water quality, water treatment devices and septic system.

## ***Well Inspection***

- Inspect your wellhead several times a year.  
Check the condition of the well covering, casing and well cap to make sure all are in good repair, leaving no cracks or other entry points for potential pollutants.
- Have the well system, including the pump, storage tank, pipes and valves, and water flow, inspected every 10 years by a qualified well contractor.
- If you have no inspection record and cannot determine the age of the well, have it inspected immediately by a well contractor.
- When your well reaches the end of its serviceable life, usually more than 20 years, contact your well contractor to install a new system and properly close the old well.

### *Water Testing*

- Test drinking water immediately if you have no recent test results or any record of previous tests.
- Test drinking water for bacteria every year. Also, test annually for nitrates if you live in an agricultural area or have an on-site septic system. The best time to perform these annual tests is in the spring.
- Test more than once a year in special situations: someone in the household is pregnant or nursing; there are unexplained illnesses in the family; your neighbors find a dangerous contaminant in their water; or there is a spill of chemicals or fuels into or near your well.
- Test after disinfection, within one or two weeks, to make sure the water is pure.
- Test after any flooding in or near the well, to determine if flood water carried bacteria or other contaminants into the well system.

### *Water Treatment System*

- Test drinking water before installing any water treatment device.
- Test water every year to make sure the device is working properly.
- Follow the inspection and maintenance schedule provided by your water treatment device manufacturer or water treatment company.

### *Septic System Testing*

- Inspect the septic tank each year for capacity and leaks.

- Pump out the tank as needed, usually every three to five years, based on the number of people in the household and the size of the tank.
- Repair the tank or drainfield system as needs.