



## Well Maintenance Tips

1. Have your water tested annually for bacteria, nitrates and other constituents of concern. Also test if there is a change in your water's taste, odor, appearance; the well system is serviced or after a flooding event.
2. Keep hazardous materials (paint, motor oil, household chemicals, etc.) away from your well. Never dump these items on your property and never pour them down the drain.
3. Limit your use of lawn and garden chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides). Excess fertilizer moves easily through the soil to ground water and contributes to high nitrate levels. Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and follow manufacturer's application instructions.
4. Take care in working or mowing around your well. A damaged casing could jeopardize the sanitary protection of your well. Don't pile snow, leaves or other materials around your well.
5. Periodically inspect well parts to ensure they are in good repair. Inspect for problems such as:
  - Cracked, corroded, or damaged well casing
  - Broken or missing well cap
  - Settling and cracking of the ground surface around the well casing
  - Replace your non-sanitary well cap with a sanitary one (two-part cap with rubber seal)
6. Keep your well records in a safe place (construction report/well log, annual maintenance records, water test results).
7. When landscaping, slope the ground away from your well for proper drainage. Avoid planting flowers, trees and shrubs near your well since they will require watering and need to be fertilized.
8. Install backflow protectors on all outdoor faucets. Water can siphon back through a hose and down the well. This is especially serious if a chemical sprayer is attached to the hose or if the hose end is under water.
9. Make sure the top of your well casing is at least 18 inches above ground surface.
10. Hire a certified well driller for any new well construction, modification or abandonment and closure.

**AND...**make sure to file a water right on your well (new well or replacement well) with Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (call: 586-3136), it is required.