

HOW TO INSPECT AND REPAIR YOUR WELL SYSTEM

FOR PROBLEMS THAT COMPROMISE THE SANITARY INTEGRITY AND RELIABILITY OF THE WATER SUPPLY.

IMPORTANCE: Defects in the well system and improper maintenance of water treatment systems can yield water bacteriologically unsafe. Well chlorination without fixing the underlying cause will not be a lasting cure.

PURPOSE: This guide will help the homeowner look for problems and make repairs in their water system that will result in safe water quality.

PROBLEM

REMEDY

<p>Openings at well head. This is the leading cause of unsafe water samples. Openings allow insects to enter the well introducing bacteria into the well.</p> <p>A. Check well cap for fit and tightness. Check gasket for proper seal (applies to metal caps which have a lower clamp ring).</p> <p>B. Check PVC electrical conduit for cracks or breakage from the cap.</p> <p>C. Missing or broken screen at well cap (some plastic well caps do not have a screen).</p> <p>D. Old “overlapping” style well cap – was used prior to 1986. Characterized by a gap under cap between well casing and perimeter of cap.</p> <p>E. Insects in well</p>	<p>Seal up openings</p> <p>Tighten down securing bolts</p> <p>Small openings—caulk & seal with silicon caulk. Repair larger cracks or breaks by replacing fittings as necessary</p> <p>Replace screen</p> <p>Replace cap with new gasket sealed cap</p> <p>Remove cap. Look down well and under cap for signs of insects. Seal openings larger than 1/32 inch where they are entering. May have to have well contractor pull pump and clean out insect debris from well. Follow with chlorination.</p>
<p>Water logged pressure tank. Characterized by constant short cycle on/off of well pump when a faucet is opened.</p> <p>A. Galvanized style pressure tank can be air charged</p> <p>B. Painted “diaphragm” style tank – water comes out air snifter valve on top of tank when inside needle is depressed</p>	<p>Air charge tank by pumping air into tank while draining water out drain cock</p> <p>Diaphragm is broken – replace tank</p>
<p>Sediment buildup in pressure tank.</p>	<p>Turn off power to well pump. Close main water valve to house plumbing. Open pressure tank drain cock to drain out water and sediment.</p>
<p>Fouled/dirty sediment filter – if one exists preceding water softener.</p>	<p>Remove filter, clean and sanitize filter housing, and install new filter.</p>
<p>Contaminated water softener or other treatment equipment.</p>	<p>Check salt tank for cleanliness. Empty, clean, and sanitize if dirty. Follow manufacturers instructions for sanitizing resin tank and other treatment equipment.</p>
<p>Water leak in system – characterized by well pump coming on when no water is being used in house.</p> <p>A. Underground leak</p> <p>B. Down the well leak</p>	<p>Look for wet spots on ground from well to house, dig up and repair.</p> <p>Call your well contractor to repair</p>