



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GROUNDWATER AWARENESS WEEK IS MARCH 6-12, 2016

Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good season to have an annual water well checkup before the peak water use season begins.

Why is it a good idea to have my water well checked annually?

“An annual checkup is the best way to ensure problem-free service and quality water,” says Chris Klawuhn, Environmental Health Services Director at the Saginaw County Department of Public Health.

Also, preventative maintenance usually is less costly than emergency maintenance, and good well maintenance — like good car maintenance — can prolong the life of your well and related equipment.

The Saginaw County Department of Public Health further recommends that you test your water on an annual basis, or whenever there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance, or when the system is serviced. The Health Department’s Laboratory offers this service to homeowners for a minimal fee. Please visit our website at www.saginawpublichealth.org/Laboratory, or call (989) 758-3686.

Wells can provide high-quality drinking water, and about half the U.S. population receives its drinking water from wells. But with well ownership comes the responsibility of keeping the water well in good working order. A check of your well by a qualified water well contractor may include:

- É A flow test to determine system output, along with a check of the water level before and during pumping (if possible), pump motor performance (check amp load, grounding, and line voltage), pressure tank and pressure switch contact, and general water quality (odor, cloudiness, etc.).
- É A well equipment inspection to assure it’s sanitary and meets local code.
- É A test of your water for coliform bacteria and nitrates, and anything else of local concern. Other typical additional tests are those for iron, manganese, water hardness, sulfides, and other water constituents that cause problems with plumbing, staining, water appearance, and odor.

SCDPH also recommends that well owners:

É Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well, and maintain a "clean" zone of at least 50 feet between your well and any kennels and livestock operations.

É Maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems, and chemical storage areas.

É Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached. Its seal should keep out insects and rodents.

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

For more information, visit www.wellowner.org or call the Saginaw County Department of Public Health's Environmental Health Services Division at (989) 758-3686.

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