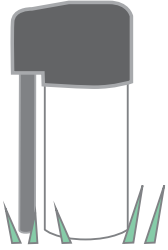


# Drinking Water Well Maintenance

Maintaining your well and the surrounding area is important for protecting your drinking water and your health. Here are tips on how to maintain your well through regular inspections, testing, and treatment.

## Well Inspection



### Wellhead and Well Cap

Check the wellhead (the part of the well that's above ground) and the well cap (the part that covers the wellhead) several times a year. Look at the wellhead casing and cap for any cracks or openings that shouldn't be there. The cap keeps rainwater, insects, and small animals from getting into the well.

If you find problems, contact a registered well driller. To find a registered well driller in your area, visit [Michigan.gov/WaterWellConstruction](https://Michigan.gov/WaterWellConstruction) and choose "Directory of Registered Constructors."

## Well System

- Have a registered well driller inspect the well system every 10 years or as needed. The inspection will include the condition of the well, pump, storage tank, piping, and valves. When it's time for a new well, contact a registered well driller for installation and to properly abandon (plug or seal) the old well.

## Surroundings

Look around your well to see if items or materials are nearby that could impact your well.

- Do not store, use, or dump harmful materials such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil near the wellhead. If you do use lawn fertilizer, follow the application instructions. Don't over apply near the wellhead.
- Keep the top of your wellhead 12 inches above the ground. Slope the ground away to help keep water from ponding near the wellhead.
- Do not plant shrubs and trees near the well.
- Be sure you can easily get to your wellhead for maintenance and/or for pump replacement. Never build a deck or porch over a wellhead. Buildings should be at least 3 feet from the wellhead.
- Keep dog kennels or animal holding areas at least 50 feet from your well.
- If your home has a septic system it's important to maintain it. Poor maintenance can lead to contaminants getting into your drinking water.

## Routine Well Maintenance



Regular maintenance is recommended for your well, including water testing and inspection. Having a maintenance routine will keep you informed of your drinking water quality and possibly identify problems.

## Water Testing

Michigan homeowners are required to test their drinking water for coliform bacteria when a well is installed. Consider testing your drinking water if flooding has happened near your well, your well has had repairs, or you notice changes in your water's taste, color, or odor. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends testing:

- Every year for coliform bacteria, *E. coli*, nitrate, and nitrite
- Every three to five years for arsenic, copper, and lead
- Check with your local health department to see if there are other times you need to test your drinking water. They may recommend other testing based on water conditions in the area.

## Well Performance

The rate at which a well pumps groundwater (called well yield) can decrease over time for many reasons. Work with a registered well driller to find and fix the problem. Possible reasons for a decrease in well yield could be:

- Buildup of mineral deposits in a well
- Buildup of microorganisms such as bacteria
- Sand is being pulled into the well by the well pump
- Well screen or casing corrosion
- Parts of the well system not working correctly (pressure switch and pump failure)

## Water Treatment

Water treatment could include disinfecting your well or installing a filtration system. Contact your local health department or MDHHS to discuss the best option before starting treatment.

- If water treatment is needed, be sure to test the water for the contaminant of concern before and after treatment. This will tell you if the treatment is working correctly.
- If disinfection is necessary, contact a registered well driller to properly disinfect the well.
- Select a water filtration system certified by NSF International ([NSF.org](https://www.nsf.org)) to reduce or remove the contaminants in your well.
- Follow the recommended inspection and maintenance routine for your treatment system.



## Well Documentation

You will receive a copy of your water well record after the well has been installed by a registered well driller. This record contains important information, such as:

- Well location
- Well depth
- Pumping rate
- Pump and pressure tank information
- Drilling method
- Date of completion

## Can't find your well record? Check Wellogic

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has an online well record system called Wellogic. You may find your well record if the well was installed in the year 2000 or later. Visit [Secure1.State.Mi.Us/Wellogic/Login.aspx](https://Secure1.State.Mi.Us/Wellogic/Login.aspx).

If your well was installed before the year 2000, you can search scanned copies of well records at [Deq.State.Mi.Us/Well-Logs/](https://Deq.State.Mi.Us/Well-Logs/). If you cannot find your well record, or need help finding your record, contact your local health department. If there is no record of when your well was installed, consider getting an inspection.

## For More Information

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**  
800-648-6942  
Ask for the Drinking Water Investigation Unit

**List of Michigan Local Health Departments**  
[Malph.org/Resources/Directory](https://Malph.org/Resources/Directory)

**Michigan Department of Environment,  
Great Lakes, and Energy**  
[Michigan.gov/DrinkingWater](https://Michigan.gov/DrinkingWater)  
[Michigan.gov/WaterWellConstruction](https://Michigan.gov/WaterWellConstruction)

Laboratory Services  
[Michigan.gov/EGLELab](https://Michigan.gov/EGLELab)