

## Living on Well Water

If you have a home well, you alone are responsible for maintaining the safety and quality of your drinking water supply. When your well system is suitably located, correctly installed, properly maintained, and regularly tested, you should have few problems with water quality.

Residential wells in subsurface aquifers, depending on the depth of the well, are replenished by rainwater that falls anywhere from several feet away to miles away from the location of the well. For this reason, the way you and your neighbors use the landscape can be an important factor in the quality of your water supply. Be alert to possible sources of well water contamination, such as runoff from large paved areas, faulty septic systems, leaking underground fuel tanks, landfills, industrial spills or discharges, and inappropriate use of animal wastes, fertilizers, and pesticides.

### Tips for Safeguarding Well Water

- Detecting groundwater contamination requires regular testing. Test your water supply once a year for bacteria and nitrates. Consider seasonal testing if any sample shows elevated levels of contaminants. Prolonged periods of heavy rain can flush contaminants into groundwater supplies.
- At the very least, test your water any time you notice unusual odors, colors, or cloudiness or if you note an interrupted supply, such as pumping air or sediment.

### Where To Get Help for well water information

- Conserve Water; [http://mda.maryland.gov/resource\\_conservation/Documents/tip5.pdf](http://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Documents/tip5.pdf)
- For concerns or questions involving well water quality, or if you experience problems with your well contact the Cecil County Health Department Environmental Health Services at 410-996-5160
- Well Maintenance Tips; <http://www.epa.state.il.us/well-water/well-maintenance-tips.html>
- Wells, Well Water, and Water Contamination; <http://extension.umd.edu/healthy-environments/healthy-and-safe-environments-home/private-wells-septic-systems>
- Wellowner; <http://www.extension.umd.edu/healthyenvironments/private-wells-septic-systems/private-well-owners-can-have-water-tested-upcoming>