

# How to Protect YOUR PRIVATE WELL

## What can I do to protect my well and drinking water?

(from faulty septic systems, household pesticides and fertilizers, animal wastes, oil, gasoline, etc.)



### INSPECT

- Periodically inspect parts of your well for problems such as: cracked, corroded, or damaged well casings, pumps or pipes; or a damaged or missing well cap.
- Keep potential contaminants like chemicals, fertilizers, petroleum products or animal waste away from your well.
- Keep the well head exposed, above ground and clear.
- Ensure septic systems are properly located and maintained.
- Make sure the ground slopes away from the well head.
- Hire a NB licensed well driller when you need work done on your well.



### TEST

- Well water should be tested regularly for bacteria and inorganic compounds and after any event that could affect its microbial safety (such as a septic system failure or flood).
- If there is a change in the water's appearance, taste, or smell.



FOR BACTERIA:

**2X**  
PER  
YEAR

In spring and fall when risk is higher.

FOR INORGANIC COMPOUNDS:

EVERY  
**2-3**  
YEARS

This would include Arsenic, Lead, and Manganese.

FOR ORGANIC COMPOUNDS:

If there has been a recent incident, like a petroleum spill near the well, or if the water source is exposed to chemicals.



### DISINFECT

Disinfect with bleach at least once per year (in spring and/or fall), or after periods of non-use. To find out how to disinfect your well, click [here](#).