



## Source Water Protection: Checklist & Tips for Homeowners

Wells should be inspected every six months and a minimum of once per year.

### *Things to look for:*

- Cracking or corrosion? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Broken or missing well cap? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Settling and cracking of surface seals? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Well cap securely in place? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Vent screen intact and not blocked by vegetative growth? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Connections in well casing properly sealed? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Surface drainage near the well directed away from the well casing? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- The well pump and distribution system functioning properly, with no leaks? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Visible portion of well casing intact with no holes or cracks? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- For dug wells: missing or cracked seals between crotch sections? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Staining above the apron? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Grass buffer around the well? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Well head graded so water flows away? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Water pooling near wellhead? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Livestock or other animals near wellhead? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Chemicals such as pesticides and fertilizers used uphill or near to the well? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Woody debris such as brush and mulch near or uphill from your well? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**
- Any other potential sources of contamination? [ ] **Yes** [ ] **No**

If any of these things are out of place, fix them and get a bacterial and/or chemical water test.

### ***Tips to protect groundwater:***

- Dispose of hazardous wastes such as paint, pesticides and petroleum products properly.
  - o Avoid dumping them on the ground, in old wells, or flushing them down the toilet as these things can contaminate groundwater.
- Maintain your septic system with routine assessments (every 3 years) and pumping when necessary (every 3-5 years).
- Conserve water in your home as excess water usage can cause septic system failure and potential groundwater contamination.
- Store chemicals and fuels in proper containers away from your well.
- When doing tasks that require chemicals, such as fueling up a lawn mower or changing the oil in a vehicle, do so away from the well on a surface that is sealed, such as pavement. This will help to prevent spills from contaminating groundwater.
- Site oil storage tanks far away (at least 15-30 meters) from your well.

### ***Resources:***

WellAware.ca: A Guide to Caring for Your Well and Protecting Your Families Health.

[http://www.wellaware.ca/downloads/WAFN\\_Booklet\\_2011\\_Web.pdf](http://www.wellaware.ca/downloads/WAFN_Booklet_2011_Web.pdf)

Nova Scotia Environment: A Guide for Private Well Owners.

<https://novascotia.ca/nse/water/docs/wellwaterbookletEnglish.pdf>

Waste Water Nova Scotia Society & Nova Scotia Environment: A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems.

<https://novascotia.ca/nse/wastewater/docs/Homeowners.Guide.to.Septic.Systems.pdf>