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## WELL MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

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- 4 Know where your well is located. Extend the casing above grade, if buried.
- 4 Watch for changes in the taste, odour and colour of the water.
- 4 Have a sample tested for bacteria at least 3 times a year – more often if problems are suspected or if the well is very shallow.
- 4 Test for nitrate-nitrogen every three years. Note: test for sodium plus nitrate-nitrogen to verify contaminant source from a septic system.
- 4 Disinfect the well with chlorine after doing any work on the inside of the well or pumping equipment.
- 4 Inspect the inside of the well at least once a year. Early spring just after the snow has melted is a good time. Also:
  - look for signs of surface water seeping or running freely into the well; look for seepage through cracks or stains on the inside of the casing.
  - check the seal around the plumbing inlets into the well casing (dug or bored) or well pit, and replace sealing material if water is seeping in from outside the well.
  - remove any debris floating in the well and prevent further debris from entering the well.
  - compare your well construction to the diagrams that show proper techniques.
- 4 Inspect the cover or sanitary seal for cracks and holes.
- 4 Check the condition of well vents. Screen for insects.
- 4 Watch for settling of the ground around the outside of the well casing.
- 4 Mound up the ground around the outside of the well or well pit with clean earth.
- 4 Keep all potential contamination sources away from the top of the well.
- 4 Maintain a permanent grassed buffer at least 3 metres (10 feet) around your well.

4 When a well is no longer in use, plug and seal it properly. (see Fact Sheets)