

ACTIVE WELLS AND WELL MANAGEMENT

About 70 percent of Minnesotans use groundwater as their source of drinking water and careful well management is important to the sustainability of this shared resource. The responsible use of groundwater will ensure its quantity and quality for future generations. Proper management of active wells helps prevent damage to the well and reduces the possibility of water contamination.

Protecting Groundwater

If you have a private well, what can you do to help protect our groundwater?

- Keep your well elevated from the soil by at least one foot.
- Slope surrounding soil away from the well.
- Keep your well cap securely attached.
- Check for cracks in the casing of your well, and if damage is detected, [find a licensed well contractor](#).
- Keep the wellhead clear of snow, leaves, and other materials.
- Test your water regularly for coliform bacteria and nitrates. For more information on which compounds to test for and how to find a testing facility, visit the [Minnesota Department of Health website](#).
- Monitor changes in the color or smell of your water.
- Do not use household chemicals or hazardous materials within 100 feet from your well .
- Do not construct buildings or site potential contaminant sources within the [Minnesota Department of Health required setbacks](#).

ABANDONED AND UNSEALED/UNUSED WELLS

Unused and unsealed wells can be a conduit for surface water runoff, contaminated water and improperly disposed of waste to reach your drinking water.

Protecting Groundwater

If you have an abandoned or unsealed/unused well, what can you do to help protect our groundwater?

- Inspect wells regularly for cracks in the casing.
- Make sure all well covers are securely in place.
- Landowners with an unused, unsealed well on their property should hire a state-licensed contractor to assess and properly seal their wells. The Minnesota Department of Health has a list of licensed well contractors, which can be found by calling the department at 651-201-4600 or by [visiting their website](#).
- Learn how to find and seal unsealed/unused wells on the [Minnesota's Department of Health's website](#).

Tank information and requirements

For specific information about UST and AST requirements, visit:

- [Underground storage tank \(UST\) systems](#)
[Aboveground Storage Tank \(AST\) Systems](#)