



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY

Public Health Department

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

WELL OWNER'S CHECKLIST

From www.wellowner.org/water-well-maintenance/homeowners-checklist/

As a private well owner, there are steps you should take to make sure that your water is safe to use. These simple steps will help protect your private well water system and investment:

- ✓ Regularly test your water. Contaminants could come from animals, chemicals, household plumbing and some naturally occurring substances. Consider installing a treatment device.
- ✓ An annual well maintenance check, including a water quality test, is recommended. Drinking water should be checked any time there is a change in taste, odor or appearance, or when the well system is serviced.
- ✓ Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well.
- ✓ Periodically check the well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair. Take care in working around your well. A damaged casing could jeopardize the sanitary protection of your well.
- ✓ Always maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems or chemical storage facilities. Your professional contractor knows the rules.
- ✓ Don't allow back-siphonage. When mixing pesticides, fertilizers, or other chemicals, don't put the hose inside the tank or container.
- ✓ When landscaping, keep the top of your well at least one foot above the ground. Slope the ground away from your well for proper drainage. Don't pile soil, leaves or other materials around your well.
- ✓ Always use licensed or certified water well drillers and pump installers when a well is constructed, a pump is installed, or the system is serviced.
- ✓ Keep your well records in a safe place. These include the construction report, as well as annual water well system maintenance and water quality testing results.
- ✓ When your well has come to the end of its serviceable life (usually 20+ years), have a qualified water well contractor decommission it after constructing your new system.

More information about private drinking water wells is available online at <http://www.epa.gov/privatewells>.