PRIVATE WELLS

epa
Environmental Protection Agency
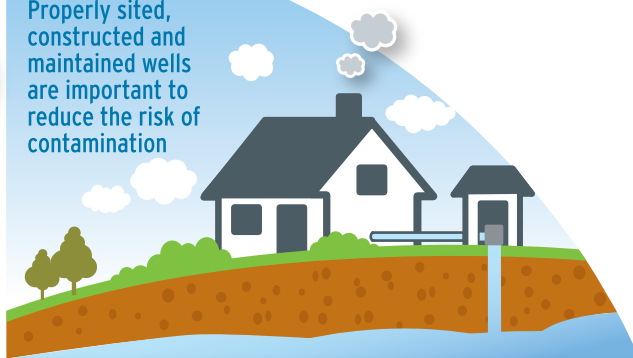*An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil*

720,000
PEOPLE IN IRELAND

are supplied by private groundwater sources*

*EPA 2010; CSO 2012

17%
OF THE POPULATION

Properly sited, constructed and maintained wells are important to reduce the risk of contamination

MANY PRIVATE WELLS ARE AT RISK FROM CONTAMINATION

DRINKING CONTAMINATED WATER CAN CAUSE SERIOUS ILLNESSES

HARMFUL PARASITES (Cryptosporidium)

HARMFUL BACTERIA (VTEC)

VTEC patients are up to **4** times more likely to have consumed untreated private water

STEP 1
CHECK YOUR WELL
Ensure your health is not at risk

Is your wellhead sealed?

Can surface water get into the well?

STEP 2
CHECK FOR ANY SOURCES OF POLLUTION

SEPTIC TANKS — 1

SLURRY LANDSPREADING — 2

CHEMICAL STORAGE — 3

FUEL STORAGE TANKS — 4

STEP 3
TEST YOUR WELL WATER AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR
ideally following wet weather
(treatment may be necessary if contaminated)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
See the Protect your Well app on www.epa.ie to assess your own water supply

FOR MORE ADVICE & GRANT INFORMATION
Check with your local authority, your local environmental health officer or the EPA at www.epa.ie

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IS YOUR PRIVATE WELL AT RISK FROM CONTAMINATION?

Many people assume that because their water comes from a well or a spring that it is safe to drink ...but this is NOT necessarily the case

THERE ARE TWO MAIN THINGS TO CHECK TO MAKE SURE THAT CONTAMINATION IS NOT GETTING INTO YOUR WELL

1 Is your wellhead sealed?

2 Can surface water get into the well?

CHECK POSSIBLE SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION

SEPTIC TANKS	SLURRY LANDSPREADING	CHEMICAL STORAGE	FUEL STORAGE TANKS	ANIMALS NEAR WELLHEAD	ABANDONED BOREHOLES

YOU SHOULD GET YOUR WELL TESTED AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR

Your local authority Environment Section or HSE Environmental Health Officer may be able to advise on a suitable laboratory

IF YOUR WELL IS CONTAMINATED YOU SHOULD:

Take action to eliminate sources of contamination;
and Install treatment;
OR
Connect to a public or group water supply

VISIT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY WEBSITE OR THE PROTECTING YOUR PRIVATE WELL SECTION OF WWW.EPA.IE