

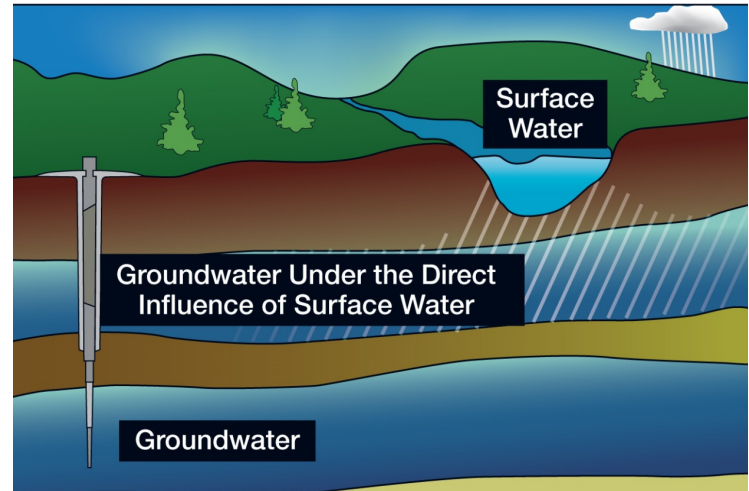
CARING FOR YOUR PRIVATE WELL

Protecting yourself and your community

GROUNDWATER

Your well receives water from an underground water source called an aquifer. This water originates from surface water and precipitation that filters through the sediment.

Your well type and how deep it has been drilled or dug can affect your drinking water quality. Shallow groundwater that is influenced by surface water is more susceptible to contamination compared to deeper groundwater.



Dug Well



Drilled Well

WELL TYPES

The most common well types in the Quinte region are dug and drilled wells. Dug wells are more prone to contamination because of their shallow depths. However, both well types can become contaminated if they are not maintained correctly. It is a good idea to keep a record of well test results and any well maintenance performed.

WELL MAINTENANCE

It is very important that you test your well at least seasonal, or as often as necessary to determine if your water supply is within the acceptable range for *E.coli* and total coliforms. These bacteria can cause serious health issues if ingested. To test for these parameters, you can pick up a **FREE** water well testing kit at your local public health unit.

In addition to maintaining water quality, you should inspect your wellhead area and water supply system at least annually to ensure everything is functioning properly.



E.coli & Total Coliform
Water Well Test

CONTAMINANTS & PREVENTATIVE MEASURES



Contamination of groundwater can occur in many ways. However, it can be prevented fairly easily. Here is a list of possible contamination sources and how to fix the issues:

- **Faulty septic systems**
 - Inspect your system annually, repair any defects, and get it pumped every 3-5 years
- **Improper fuel and chemical storage**
 - For indoor fuel and chemical storage, place drip trays underneath them to prevent spills and use double-walled tanks
 - For outdoor fuel storage, use double-walled tanks.
- **Pesticides and agricultural operations**
 - Use eco-friendly alternatives and test soil prior to spreading nutrients
- **Improper disposal of medications and hazardous waste materials**
 - Dispose of medications at pharmacies and hazardous waste at a hazardous waste depot
- **Improperly abandoned wells on your property create a channel for contaminants to enter your groundwater**
 - Contact a licensed well contractor to properly decommission abandoned wells on your property.
- **Applications of road salts**
 - Natural ice-melting alternatives include beet juice, cheese brine, or pickle brine. To provide traction rather than melting effects on ice, you can use sand, kitty litter, wood ashes, or coffee grounds.



CONSERVING WATER

Groundwater is a naturally replenishing source. However, there can be times when your well may run low, or dry. It is important to conserve water whenever possible to lower the chance of your well becoming dry.

The average person in Ontario uses 285L of water per day. We can save water through a variety of efforts including:

- Don't water lawns or consider using a grey water recycling system.
- Install rain barrels and use that water for your gardens and lawn.
- Install low-flow shower heads and toilets.
- Turn the tap off while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your face.



For more information visit [Quinte Conservation's Best Practices for Source Water Protection website](https://quinteconservation.ca/swp-best-practices/) (quinteconservation.ca/swp-best-practices/) or contact:

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