



**Before you drink it...
before you jump in it...
think about it.**

Revised August 2010

Do you know where your water has been lately?

Answer these basic questions to help identify activities on your property that may be contaminating your water.

How Safe is Your Well?

- | Yes or Don't Know | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Do you have a well less than 50 feet deep? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Do you have a dug well or driven well (rather than a drilled well), or is your well more than 50 years old? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Does your well casing extend less than 12 inches above ground level or can you see any cracks or holes in your well casing? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Are there any potential sources of contamination uphill from your well, such as livestock or fertilizer/pesticide/fuel storage? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Are there any abandoned wells on your property that have not been properly closed? |

Risks to Your Water from Fuel Storage & Handling

- | Yes or Don't Know | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Are there underground fuel storage tanks on your farm or acreage? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Are any of your above ground or underground fuel storage tanks located near a water well or surface water body? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Are there signs of spills or leaks around any fuel tanks? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Do you have any fuel tanks that are not located on a containment structure or spill pad? |

Risks to Your Water from Pesticides & Fertilizers

- | Yes or Don't Know | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Do you mix, apply, or store pesticides or fertilizers within 100 feet of any water supply system, stream or lake? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Do you fill your sprayer tank with a hose that does not have an anti-backflow device? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. When filling, do you put the hose in the tank below the water line? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Do you leave the sprayer tank unattended while filling? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Do you rinse your sprayer tank near your water supply? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Do you use pesticides or fertilizers within 100 feet of any water ? |

Risks to Your Water from Hazardous Wastes

- | Yes or Don't Know | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Do you use products without following the directions on the "warning" or "caution" labels? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Do you ever pour hazardous substances such as antifreeze, oil, paints, stains, polishes or solvents down a sink drain or storm drain, in a ditch, or on the ground? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Do you burn plastics, batteries, chemicals, treated lumber, or other hazardous items? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Have you disposed of hazardous waste in an area other than a designated disposal facility? |

Risks to Your Water from a Septic System

Yes or
Don't
Know

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Is your septic system less than 100 feet from your well or surface water? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Has it been longer than three years since you had your septic tank inspected or cleaned out? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Do you pour grease, oil, or leftover household chemicals down your drain? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Do you ever see evidence of standing or "smelly" water that may have come from your septic system? |

Risks to Your Water from Livestock

Yes or
Don't
Know

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Does runoff from your barnyard or manure collection area flow into streams or other surface water? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. During rain events, is runoff from your roof or yard allowed to come in contact with the manure? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Are your manure storage areas located less than 100 feet or uphill from your well or surface waters? |

What now?

If you answered "Yes" or "Don't Know" to any of these questions, then the surface water or groundwater near your home may be at risk. Sources of pollutants on or near your property can contaminate water, which can threaten your family's health, the value of your property or the health of people downstream.

For more detailed surveys and fact sheets on these potential risks to your water quality, go to <http://extension.usu.edu/waterquality/htm/agriculturewq/riskwater>

If you have other questions or want more information, contact your local County Extension Office or USU's Water Quality Program (435-797-2580) or www.extension.usu.edu/waterquality.



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