

Did you know. . .

Whether you live in one of Scott County's small towns, a subdivision, or on a farm, your drinking water is supplied by a water well.

When properly constructed and taken care of, drilled wells provide a safe and plentiful supply of water. But to make sure that the water supply stays free from contaminants, certain protective steps should be taken. As an individual well owner, you can protect your well by following these basic guidelines:

- Always use Certified Water Well Contractors when a well is constructed, a pump is put in or the system is serviced. The Scott County Health Department can provide you with a list of Certified Water Well Contractors. To become certified, drillers must pass an exam and attend continuing education classes.
- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil away from your well.
- Prevent back-siphonage of hazardous chemicals by not leaving the hose in the



Wellhead protection means protecting the area around a wellhead to prevent contaminants at the surface from getting to the water supply. Normally, this is done by limiting the activities that are done within the wellhead protection area.

Wellhead protection areas and practices are found using the geologic (soil) and hydrologic (water) characteristics of the water supply, well construction, and how close the possible contaminants are to the wellhead.

The large cost of finding other water supplies or cleaning up spills makes wellhead protection plans helpful and cost-effective for water supplies.

Getting started. . .

A sanitary survey is the best way to find out how a well could be exposed to contamination. If you are on a public water supply (defined in the shaded box below), this survey is done by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Contact your water utility for more information.

If you are on a private water well, contact the Scott County Health Department or a Certified Water Well Contractor to do the survey, also called a site assessment, for you.

Public vs. Private-What's the difference?

The rule of thumb is that if your well provides service to 15 or more connections, serving 25 or more people, it is classified as a "Public" water supply and is regulated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

Why should I have a survey done?

The purpose of the sanitary survey is to find the type and location of all possible sources of contamination. The first step is to look at the well itself to determine if there are construction problems which would make the well open to surface contamination. For instance:

- Is the well in a pit?
- Does the casing extend at least 1 ft. above grade?
- Is the well cap in good condition?

Once you find that the well is in good repair, you can then begin to look for possible contamination sources:

- Septic tank and seepage field lines.
- Feedlots.
- Chemical mixing & storage areas.
- Manure pits.
- Storm water run-off.
- Underground storage tanks.
- Abandoned wells.

Once these have been identified, you can then take action to stop or limit the possible risk(s) to your well.

Scott County Code Chapter 24 has clearly defined requirements for all the items mentioned above. Contact the Health Department for a copy.

The last step of the survey is to take a water sample that is sent to a state certified laboratory to be checked.

Developing a plan. . .

Once the sanitary survey is done, you, your homeowner's association or your water utility may wish to develop a comprehensive plan to protect your well from future contamination.

For further information contact::

The Groundwater Foundation
P O Box 22558
Lincoln NE 68542-2558
1-800-858-4844
www.groundwater.org

Other related websites:

National Well Owners Association
www.wellowner.org

National Groundwater Association
www.ngwa.org

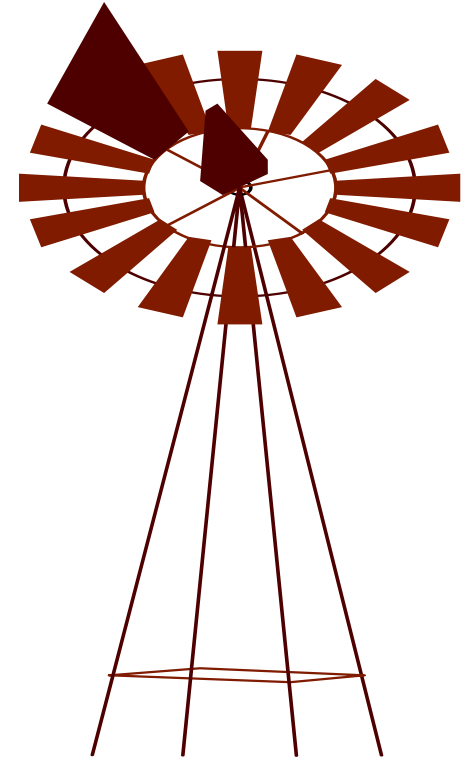
Iowa Water Well Association
www.iwwa.org

Iowa Geological Survey Bureau
www.igsb.uiowa.edu

Scott County Health Department
600 W. 4th St
Davenport IA 52801-1030

WELLHEAD PROTECTION IN SCOTT COUNTY

*Future Solutions Now for
Safe Drinking Water
Tomorrow*



Scott County Health Department

600 W. 4th St
Davenport IA 52801-1030
(563) 326-8618 phone
(563) 326-8774 fax
www.scottcountyiowa.com