

It's Time for Your Annual Water Well Checkup

Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good season to have an annual water well checkup before the peak water use season begins, notes the California Groundwater Association (CGA).

Wells provide high-quality drinking water, and according to the US Geological Survey, over half of California's population receives its drinking water from wells. There are about a half million households in the state served by private water wells. With well ownership comes the responsibility of keeping the water well in good working order.

An annual checkup by a qualified water well contractor is the best way to ensure problem-free service and quality water, says CGA Executive Director Mike Mortenson. "While private water wells are not regulated like the 16,000 public water wells in California, it's just common sense for private well owners to check their well's delivery system and water quality on a regular basis," said Mortenson.

Also, preventative maintenance usually is less costly than emergency maintenance, and good well maintenance - like good car maintenance - can prolong the life of your well and related equipment.

A well checkup by a qualified water well contractor may include:

- A flow test to determine system output, along with a check of the water level before and during pumping, pump motor performance, pressure tank and pressure switch contact, and general water quality.
- A well equipment inspection to assure it's sanitary and meets local code.
- A test of your water for coliform bacteria, nitrates, and other water constituents that might cause problems with plumbing, staining, water appearance, and odor.

CGA also recommended that well owners:

- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well, and maintain at least 100 feet between your well and any kennels or livestock operations, waste systems, or chemical storage areas.
- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the well casing to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached. The seal should keep out insects and rodents.
- Keep your well records in a safe place. These include the construction report, and annual water well system maintenance and water testing results.

For more information, contact:

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