

Well Management



Take Steps to Protect Your Drinking Water Resources

Become **Better Informed** about Wellhead Protection

Improper maintenance or management of wells could result in contamination entering into your drinking water. Wells owners in the area can protect their drinking water by following the suggestions below:

Well Landscape & Building Considerations:

- *Keep the top of the well at least 1 foot above the soil surface and slope the soil away from the well casing to allow surface water to drain away from your well.
- *Do not pile snow, leaves, or other materials around the well to keep insects, dirt, and other contaminants out.
- *Consider the location of the well when making physical changes to your property. Setback requirements and potential contaminant sources can be found at: www.health.state.mn.us.

Well Management & Maintenance:

- *Seal unused wells as these can provide a direct pathway for contaminants to enter into the groundwater.
- *When working near your well, be careful not to disturb or damage the well casing.
- *Inspect your well regularly for physical changes or damage. Make sure the well cover or cap is properly attached, in good condition, and watertight. If damage is detected, contact a licensed well driller for repairs.
- *Do not mix or work with hazardous chemicals like pesticides, fertilizers, paints, or motor oil near your well.
- *Take steps to prevent back-siphonage of material into your plumbing system. Avoid situations of submerging a hose in a laundry tub, chemical tank, or sprayer when the hose is connected to a faucet.

Well Water Quality & Monitoring:

- *Have your water tested regularly for basic health related contaminants including coliform bacteria and nitrates.
- *Monitor for changes in color and smell of your water. Consult with your local health department or well driller to determine necessary steps.

For more information contact:

City of Red Lake Falls
Matt Swendra 218-253-2684
PO Box 37
Red Lake Falls, MN 56750



Learn ways to protect your drinking water at: www.mrwa.com



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