



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 4-14-14**

Mid-Michigan District Health Department

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## Water wells require routine maintenance

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- Groundwater is one of our most important resources and is essential to the health and well-being of residents and the environment. We all must do our part to protect this valuable resource; and for well owners, that means making sure wells are in good working order.

As with most things, preventative maintenance is usually less costly than emergency maintenance, and a water well is certainly no exception.

A routine check of your well by a qualified contractor can prolong the life of your well and is the best way to ensure problem-free service and high quality water. The check may include an equipment inspection to assure it is sanitary and meets local code, as well as a test of your water for coliform bacteria and nitrates, and anything else of concern.

MMDHD recommends that well owners:

- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well, and maintain a "clean" zone of at least 50 feet between your well and any kennels and livestock operations
- Maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems, and chemical storage areas
- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached
- Test their water whenever there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance, or when the system is serviced
- Properly store hazardous household substances in secure containers
- Mix hazardous household substances over concrete or asphalt where they can be cleaned up or absorbed
- Dispose of hazardous household wastes at an appropriate waste disposal facility
- Do not put medications or hazardous household wastes down the drain or in the toilet
- If you own a septic system, service it according to local health department recommendations
- If you have a water well, get a yearly maintenance check

Contact MMDHD with any well related questions, or to inquire about available services, such as well sampling and site visits at 989-224-2195 in Clinton County, 989-875-3681 in Gratiot County, or 989-831-5237 in Montcalm County.

For more information, please visit the National Groundwater Association's website at [www.ngwa.org](http://www.ngwa.org).

*Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties.*

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