

Private Drinking Water Wells

All residents in the Town of Killingworth rely on well water for their drinking water. It is important to know if your water is safe to drink and what to do if there is a problem.



How can I protect my private water supply?

Protect your water supply by carefully managing activities near the water source. For households using a domestic well, this includes keeping contaminants away from sinkholes and the well itself. Keep hazardous chemicals out of septic systems.

- Periodically inspect exposed parts of the well for problems such as:
 - cracked, corroded, or damaged well casing
 - broken or missing well cap
 - settling and cracking of surface seals.
- Slope the area around the well to drain surface runoff away from the well.
- Install a well cap or sanitary seal to prevent unauthorized use of, or entry into, the well.
- Have the well tested once a year for coliform bacteria, nitrates, and other constituents of concern.
- Keep accurate records of any well maintenance, such as disinfection or sediment removal, that may require the use of chemicals in the well.
- Hire a certified well driller for any new well construction, modification, or abandonment and closure.

- Avoid mixing or using pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, degreasers, fuels, and other pollutants near the well.
- Do not dispose of wastes in dry wells or in abandoned wells.
- Do not cut off the well casing below the land surface.
- Pump and inspect septic systems as often as recommended by the Killingworth Health Department
- Never dispose of harsh chemicals, solvents, petroleum products, or pesticides in a septic system or dry well.

How can I test the quality of my private drinking water supply?

Test private water supplies annually for nitrate and coliform bacteria to detect contamination problems early. Test them more frequently if you suspect a problem. Contact either the Killingworth Health Department or a certified water testing laboratory to discuss any concerns you may have. Generally, the water testing labs will recommend a “complete potable” exam which provides testing the water for basic water parameters such as bacteria, ph, color, turbidity, nitrate, manganese, iron and hardness. Specialized testing of well water for sodium, radon, uranium, pesticides or other chemicals may be requested by the homeowner.