PRIVATE WELLS

476,000 PEOPLE IN IRELAND are supplied by private wells* (CSO 2016)

10% OF THE POPULATION

Properly sited, constructed and maintained wells are important to reduce the risk of contamination

MANY PRIVATE WELLS ARE AT RISK FROM CONTAMINATION

DRINKING CONTAMINATED WATER CAN CAUSE SERIOUS ILLNESSES

HARMFUL PARASITES (Cryptosporidium)

HARMFUL BACTERIA (VTEC)

VTEC patients are up to 4 times more likely to have consumed untreated private water

STEP 1
CHECK YOUR WELL
Ensure your health is not at risk

STEP 2
CHECK FOR ANY SOURCES OF POLLUTION

1 SEPTIC TANKS
2 SLURRY LANDSPREADING
3 CHEMICAL STORAGE
4 FUEL STORAGE TANKS

STEP 3
TEST YOUR WELL WATER AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR ideally following wet weather (treatment may be necessary if contaminated)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
See the Protect your Well app on www.epa.ie to assess your own water supply

FOR MORE ADVICE & GRANT INFORMATION
Check with your local authority, your local environmental health officer or the EPA at www.epa.ie
Many people assume that because their water comes from a well or a spring that it is safe to drink ... but this is NOT necessarily the case.

**THERE ARE TWO MAIN THINGS TO CHECK TO MAKE SURE THAT CONTAMINATION IS NOT GETTING INTO YOUR WELL**

1. Is your wellhead sealed?
2. Can surface water get into the well?

**CHECK POSSIBLE SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION**

- Septic tanks
- Slurry landspreading
- Chemical storage
- Fuel storage tanks
- Animals near wellhead
- Abandoned boreholes

**YOU SHOULD GET YOUR WELL TESTED AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR**

Your local authority Environment Section or HSE Environmental Health Officer may be able to advise on a suitable laboratory.

**IF YOUR WELL IS CONTAMINATED YOU SHOULD:**

- Take action to eliminate sources of contamination;
- Install treatment;
- OR
- Connect to a public or group water supply

**VISIT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY WEBSITE OR THE PROTECTING YOUR PRIVATE WELL SECTION OF WWW.EPA.IE**