



# National Groundwater Awareness Week

## March 7-13, 2010

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### Annual Water Well Check-ups

Are you a well owner? If so, you should consider an annual water well check up before the weather warms up and your peak water season usage begins. All well owners are encouraged to get a check up as part of the efforts of National Groundwater Awareness Week which is sponsored by the National Groundwater Association. The Association is one of the nationally recognized authorities on the topic of groundwater including its quality and protection.

### Are check-ups important?

Keeping your well in good operating condition can be accomplished through routine maintenance that should keep all equipment in good working order. A little time and money spent on preventative maintenance may prevent more costly measures if an emergency situation should arise. Should you take this step towards wise well operation, you should call a licensed or certified well contractor to ensure the proper evaluation of your well.

### What should your check up include?

- A flow test to determine system output, along with a check of the water level before and during pumping (if possible), pump motor performance (check amp load, grounding, and line voltage), pressure tank and pressure switch contact, and general water quality (odor, cloudiness, etc.).
  - A well equipment inspection to assure it's sanitary and meets local code.
  - A test of your water for coliform bacteria and nitrates, and anything else of local concern. Other typical additional tests are those for iron, manganese, water hardness, sulfides, and other water constituents that cause problems with plumbing, staining, water appearance, and odor.
- What Can You Do? Get Involved!

### Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District

The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (District) is committed to managing and protecting the groundwater resources of Montgomery County and to working with others to ensure a sustainable, adequate, high quality and cost effective supply of water.

The District will strive to develop, promote, and implement water conservation, augmentation, and management strategies to protect water resources for the benefit of the citizens, economy, and environment of Montgomery County. The preservation of this most valuable resource can be

managed in a prudent and cost-effective manner through conservation, education, management, and permitting.

Contact Us: The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District can be reached at 936-494-3436 or check out our website at [www.lonestargcd.org](http://www.lonestargcd.org). ♦

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#### What is ground water?

It's the water that fills cracks, voids, and other openings in soil, sand, and bedrock.

#### Why is it important?

Most ground water flows directly into streams, rivers, and lakes from beneath. Also, persons with wells use it for drinking water.

#### How much is there?

About 98 percent of the available fresh water on Earth is ground water.



## Protect this precious resource!

- 1 Don't dispose of any hazardous substances by dumping them on the ground, pouring them down the drain, or flushing them down the toilet. Contact local waste authorities about proper disposal of hazardous substances such as:
  - Pesticides/herbicides
  - Antifreeze
  - Fertilizer
  - Paint/paint thinner
  - Oil
  - Chemicals
- 2 Don't overapply pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Use them in the recommended amounts.
- 3 When you're handling hazardous substances, do so over cement to avoid ground water infiltration or runoff into surface water from accidental spills.
- 4 If you own a water well, have your water tested yearly. Also test if there is a change in the odor, taste, or smell.
- 5 If you own a septic tank, have it cleaned and serviced regularly to prevent a breakdown that could pollute your ground water.

Sponsored by the National Ground Water Association

