Recommendation for well maintenance

It should also be noted that every well owner is responsible for controlling the quality of his drinking water.

- The bacteriological quality of the water should be subjected to strict testing, as it can have a direct impact on health.
- In addition, testing for nitrates every two years. *(Nitrates can cause methemoglobinemia to the newborn)*
- We suggest verifying the quality of the chemical analysis, for the well-being and possible savings.

You should consider a bacteriological analysis and a well disinfection:

- At spring thaw.
- When you notice a major change in water characteristic.
- After renovation works.
- On new wells and the reuse of and old well.
- In the days of the hot season.

In light of this information, we can establish the importance of a bacteriological analysis followed by a disinfection of the well, at least twice a year, to assure quality of drinking water.

To prevent well contamination:

- Important, the location of the well should be above and have appropriate distances with the suroundings, septic systems, disposal of animal waste, spreading of mineral and farm fertilizers, a pen or a stable for domestic animal, etc.
- The location of the well sould keep away the running water and prevent water accumulation.
- The well sould be well sealed, and above ground 30 cm.
- Presence of animals around the well should be avoided.

If you own an old well that is not above ground 30cm and well sealed, suggestion: the repair can prevent contamination.

Certain soil characteristics, such as cracks in rock formations, sandy or gravelly soil, favour the rapid infiltration of water. Generally speaking, surface wells, sand points and streams from shallow water tables are more vulnerable to surrounding activities and nitrate contamination.

We all have a duty to protect our sources of water and learn to recognize risks of contamination because, even when a bacteriological analysis fails to detect contamination, every infiltration in your well can contaminate the aquifer and be hazardous to your health. If you draw your water from a surface well or lake, the risk of contamination is considerably higher (bacteria, *E. coli*, viruses, protozoa, herbicides, pesticides, oil, nitrates, etc.).

The remediation of groundwater contamination is not only expensive, it is sometimes impossible, which is why it is so important to prevent it. Let's give some thought to our quality of life and that of future generations. Water is life!

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