



COMMUNITY FEATURE

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GROUNDWATER PROTECTION VITAL TO HEALTH

In recognition of [National Protect Your Groundwater Day](#), Tuesday, September 9, 2014, Wake County residents are encouraged to take an active role in protecting and preserving the county's groundwater supply. Approximately 100,000 Wake County residents get their drinking water from individual private wells.

Municipal and community water systems are required to test and treat drinking water to federal quality standards. However, private well owners are responsible for ensuring that their water is safe. Well water can be contaminated by things such as microorganisms, heavy metals, fertilizers, pesticides, and household wastes. In addition, all residents can protect groundwater by careful use and storage of chemicals.

Current well owners can learn how to [collect their well water for testing](#). Owners may also contact Wake County for [water testing](#), and to [register their well with the County](#). To protect yourself and your ground water supply:

- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the well to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached,
- Have the water tested regularly by [Wake County](#) and keep records of results,
- Dispose of hazardous household substances properly,
- Regularly have your septic tank pumped and cleaned by a permitted septage hauler.

For more information or to register your well, visit www.wakegov.com/water/wells/.