



NEWS RELEASE

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Wake County Encourages Private Well Owners to Get Wells Tested Annually

Groundwater Awareness Week runs March 5-11

Just like performing regular maintenance on a car can prevent accidents and costly repairs for drivers, performing regular water testing can protect the health and safety of private well users.

With an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 private wells in Wake County, the Board of Commissioners will consider a resolution at its regular meeting today proclaiming March 5 -11, 2017, Groundwater Awareness Week to encourage private well owners to test their water annually.

While most Wake County residents rely on water from municipal lines or community well systems that are monitored by certified operators, more than 100,000 residents get their water from private wells. The owners of private wells are responsible for the maintenance and testing of their own water supply. Water can look, smell and taste good but still contain harmful compounds and contaminants.

“The quantity and quality of Wake County’s water supply is an important issue to our board,” said Commissioner John Burns. “Well testing is a critical service the county provides, and we encourage private well owners to take advantage of it to ensure what comes out of their tap is safe.”

Wake County’s Water Quality Division is available to [perform water tests](#) of private wells for a fee. Staff can help well users determine which tests they may need and understand their options for mitigation if contaminants are detected. Discounted fees are available for lower-income residents.

Tips for Keeping Wells and Well Water Safe:

- Hazardous chemicals such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides and motor oil should be kept a safe distance away from a well;
- Pets and livestock should be kept far away from a well;
- Oil, grease, chemicals and garbage should not be disposed of in a septic system;

- Problems with a septic system should be promptly addressed;
- Periodically check the well's cover or well cap to ensure it is in good shape, securely attached and sealed to keep out bacteria, insects and rodents; and
- Keep well records in a safe place and include the construction report, as well as annual maintenance and water testing results.

For more information on groundwater safety, well testing fees, and tips for keeping your well and well water safe, visit the [Wake County Water Quality website](#) or call Wake County Environmental Services at 919-856-7400.

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