

March is Ground Water Awareness Month

Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good time to have an annual water well checkup before the peak water use season begins, according to the National Ground Water Association.



When properly constructed and maintained, drilled wells provide a safe and plentiful supply of water. An annual checkup by a licensed or certified water well contractor is the best way to ensure problem-free service and quality water. Preventative maintenance usually is less costly than emergency maintenance, and good well maintenance can prolong the life of your well and related equipment. Furthermore, it is recommended that you test your water anytime there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance, or anytime the system is serviced. You should also have your water tested if any family members or houseguests have recurring incidents of gastrointestinal illness, an infant is living at home, if you are buying a home and wish to assess the quality and safety of the existing supply, and if you wish to monitor the efficiency and performance of your home water treatment equipment.

The Scott County Health Department receives money from the Grants to Counties program to help residents pay for the cost of well abandonment, rehabilitation, and water sampling. This program is funded by the Iowa Department of Public Health. For more information on water well services or to request a service, please call the Scott County Health Department at 563/326-8618 or submit the online Water Well Services Request Form which can be found at: http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/water_welltesting.php.

The Scott County Health Department regulates the construction and installation of all private water wells and collects water samples from new and existing wells.

The fee for this service is:

- New Well Permit: \$123.00
- Well Rehabilitation Permit: \$40.00
- Sandpoint Well Permit: \$37.00
- Well Plug Permit: \$15.00



For more information about ground water and the services available through the Scott County Health Department, visit <http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health> and click on the "Water Quality" link under Environmental Services on the left-hand side.

Help Protect Earth's Precious Resource: Ground Water

About 98% of the available fresh water on Earth is ground water. This is the water that flows directly into rivers, streams, and lakes from beneath. Also, it is used in wells for drinking water. Help protect this precious resource by following these tips from the National Ground Water Association:



1. Do not dispose of hazardous substances by dumping them in or on the ground. Contact local waste authorities for proper disposal of pesticides, herbicides, antifreeze, fertilizer, paint, paint thinner, oil, and other chemicals.
2. Do not pour hazardous substances into drains or sewers.
3. Do not overapply pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Use them in the recommended amounts.
4. When you are handling hazardous substances, do so over cement to avoid ground water infiltration or runoff into surface water from accidental spills.
5. If you own a water well, have your water tested yearly. Also test if there is a change in the odor, taste, or appearance.
6. If you own a septic tank, have it cleaned and serviced every two years.

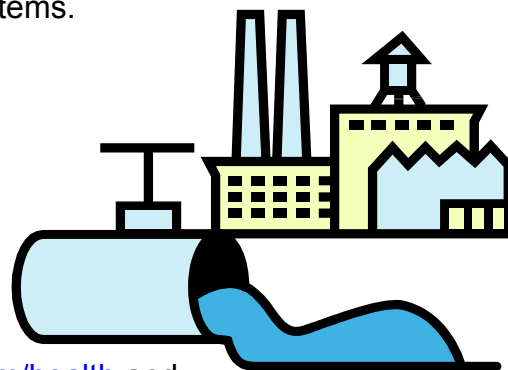
For more information, visit the National Ground Water Association at www.wellowner.org.

Scott County Health Department's Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Permit and Enforcement Program:

Did you know that the Scott County Health Department regulates the design, construction, and installation of all private on-site treatment systems installed in the County? The Health Department also samples private on-site treatment systems and provides assistance with complaints relating to sewage treatment and disposal systems.

The fee for this service is:

▪ Construction Permit:	\$123.00
▪ Septic Tank Abandonment Permit:	\$30.00
▪ Reconstruction Permit	\$27.00
▪ Annual Operational Permit:	\$37.00



For more information about onsite wastewater treatment and disposal systems visit <http://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health> and click on the "Water Quality" link under Environmental Services on the left-hand side.