

Your Guide to Cleaner, Safer Well Water



Culligan Water®



Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Common Problems for Well Water Users
- 3 Well Water Solutions
- 4 Testing Well Water
- 5 Finding the Right Water Softener for Well Water
- 6 A Closer Look at Water Filtration Systems

Getting to Know Your Well Water

Well water is a common presence in homes across North America: **40 million Americans** and **three million Canadians** rely on well water, according to the United States Geographical Survey and the Government of Canada. If you're one of these people, that means a pump is hard at work pulling water directly from an underground aquifer to feed your faucets and appliances.

Although wells come with the benefit of no monthly water bill, they do require a few unique responsibilities. When you own a private well, you're responsible for maintenance, upkeep and — most importantly — water quality.

There are a few different quality issues you may experience as a well water user, but the good news is that you don't have to face those issues alone.

This guide to cleaner, safer well water is here to help you go with the flow!

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a clear glass under a running faucet. Water is being poured into the glass, creating bubbles. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The image is partially framed by a white circular shape on the left side of the page.

**40 million Americans and
three million Canadians
rely on well water.**

Common Problems for Well Water Users

There are three main types of potential well water issues: hard water, other aesthetic problems and contaminants.*

Hard Water

Hard water is the presence of excess calcium and magnesium in your water. It can cause a [long list of frustrations](#), including:



Spotty dishes



Hair and skin issues



Buildup on faucets and shower walls



Reduced longevity and performance of water-using appliances

Aesthetic Problems

Aesthetic problems relate to observable issues such as taste, odor and appearance — but they aren't typically harmful to your health. Besides hard water, the most common issues are rust stains/discoloration from elevated levels of iron, or a [rotten-egg](#) smell due to elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide.

Potential Contaminants

Because private well water isn't federally regulated, [annual testing is recommended](#), for total coliform bacteria, nitrate, total dissolved solids and pH levels. Depending on other factors, well water could also include contaminants such as copper, lead, arsenic and fluoride. Different contaminants may be present depending on where you live and other factors, which is why having a water test to determine the best well water treatment solution is so important.

*Contaminants may not be present in your water.

Well Water Solutions

There are three types of products you can use to improve the quality of your well water:

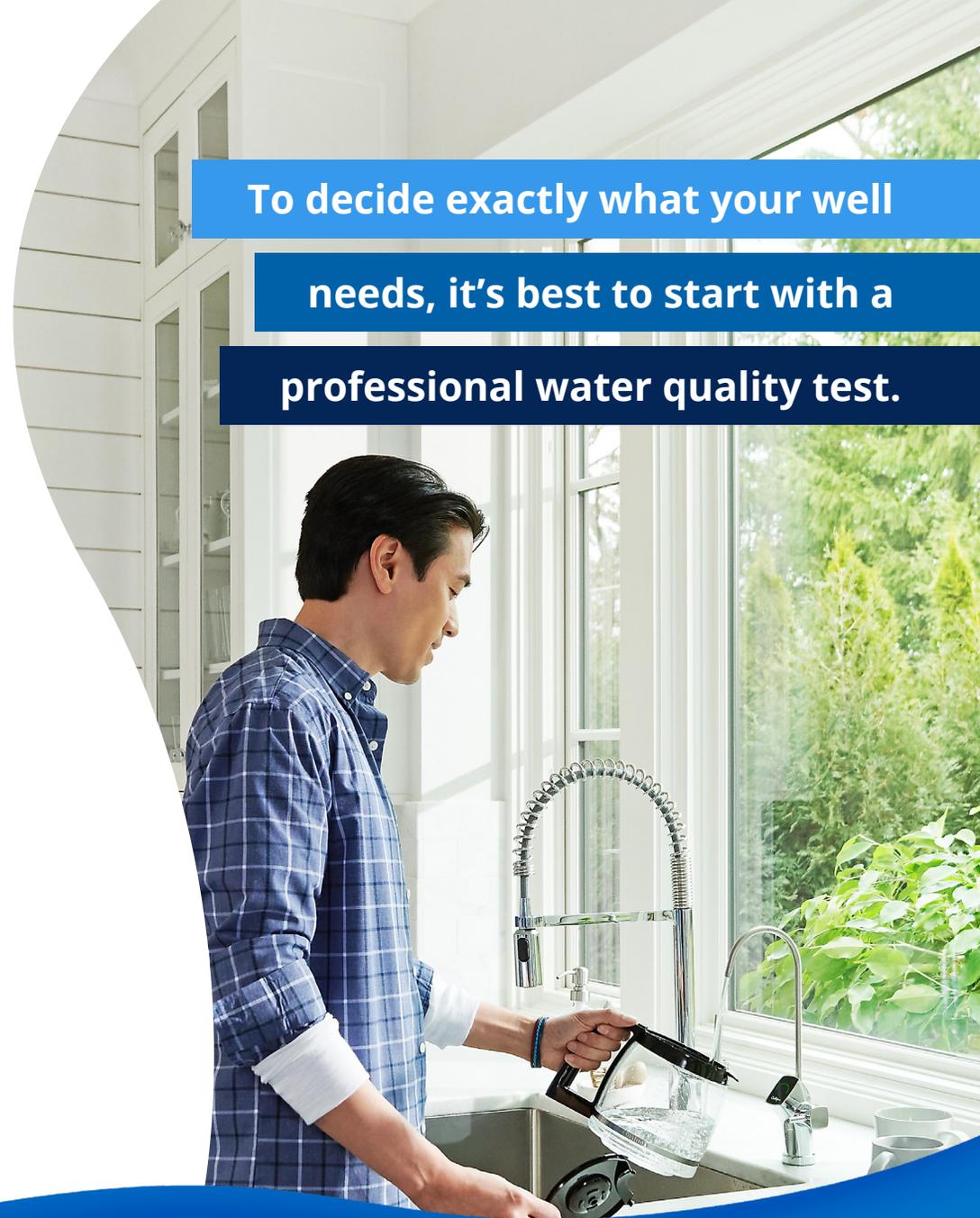
Water softeners: A [water softener](#) reduces calcium and magnesium levels in your well water, keeping mineral buildup from impacting your appliances, dishes, hair and skin.

Whole-house filtration systems: [Whole-house water filtration systems](#) address problem water issues like iron, sulfur water and more throughout your home.

Drinking water filtration systems: A reverse osmosis [drinking water filtration system](#) is one of the best ways to treat your drinking water for a broad range of potential contaminants.

It may be necessary to combine systems and solutions to provide cleaner, safer water for your home. However, to decide exactly what your well needs, it's best to start with a professional water quality test.

To decide exactly what your well needs, it's best to start with a professional water quality test.



Testing Well Water

If you use a well, you should [regularly test your water quality](#). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends testing your private well annually or if you experience:

- Known problems with well water in your area
- Natural disasters, flooding, landslides or other problems near your well
- Seepage of contaminants from pollution
- Odd tastes or smells
- Replacement or repair of any part of the well system

For help with water testing, [reach out to your local Culligan Water® experts](#). They'll know which issues your well might be facing — and with a free, in-home test, they can tell you about the presence of:

- Total dissolved solids (TDS) from minerals and salts
- pH level
- Iron
- Hardness levels in your water
- And more

You'll also have access to comprehensive lab-based testing. Experts at Culligan's IL-EPA certified water-testing lab can perform a more in-depth test to identify the presence of bacteria, lead, copper, nitrate, arsenic, and over 100 other potentially harmful contaminants.



Finding the Right Water Softener for Well Water



Say goodbye to hard water issues like limescale buildup, soap scum, skin irritation and dry hair.

If your water test indicates that hard water is an issue, a water softener could be your ideal solution.

Because calcium and magnesium are both positively charged, a water softener uses negatively charged resin beads to attract those molecules. Once attracted, the molecules can be rinsed off and drained out with salt water, so you can say goodbye to hard water issues like limescale buildup, soap scum, skin irritation and dry hair.

There are a few elements that determine which water softener is best for you:

- Water hardness levels
- Your home's water usage
- Your water's flow rate

It's also important to consider the softener itself. Research details like each softener's:

- Efficiency (Culligan offers the world's most efficient water softeners**)
- Life span
- Maintenance needs
- Smart features, including salt refill alerts and water usage tracking

**HE Softener when configured with proportional up-flow brining with Aqua-Sensor®

A Closer Look at Water Filtration Systems

If a test has determined that your well needs water filtration, there are two types of systems that may be recommended:

Point of Entry: A whole-home water filtration system is installed where the well water line enters your house. These filter water from every tap in your home, targeting common well water issues such as sediment, iron, hydrogen sulfide (that rotten-egg smell), arsenic and more.

Point of Use: These systems are installed to filter individual water sources, like a reverse osmosis drinking water filtration system installed under your kitchen sink. These treat water for taste, odor and appearance issues as well as potential contaminants.

To choose the best water filtration system for your needs, look for a system specifically designed to address the issues identified by your well water test. Also consider factors such as whether the system offers a maintenance program and third-party certifications that validate the system's efficacy and quality.

Not sure where to start or whether a water softener, whole-home water filtration system or drinking water filtration system is best? Don't worry — Culligan® has you covered. Schedule a free water test today to take the first step toward cleaner, safer well water.



Culligan Water®

www.culligan.com

