

wellcare® information for you about **Where Your Water Comes From**

Ground water is used for drinking water by more than 50% of the people in the United States. Most well owners get their water from ground water. Ground water is a renewable, reliable resource for cool, pure water.

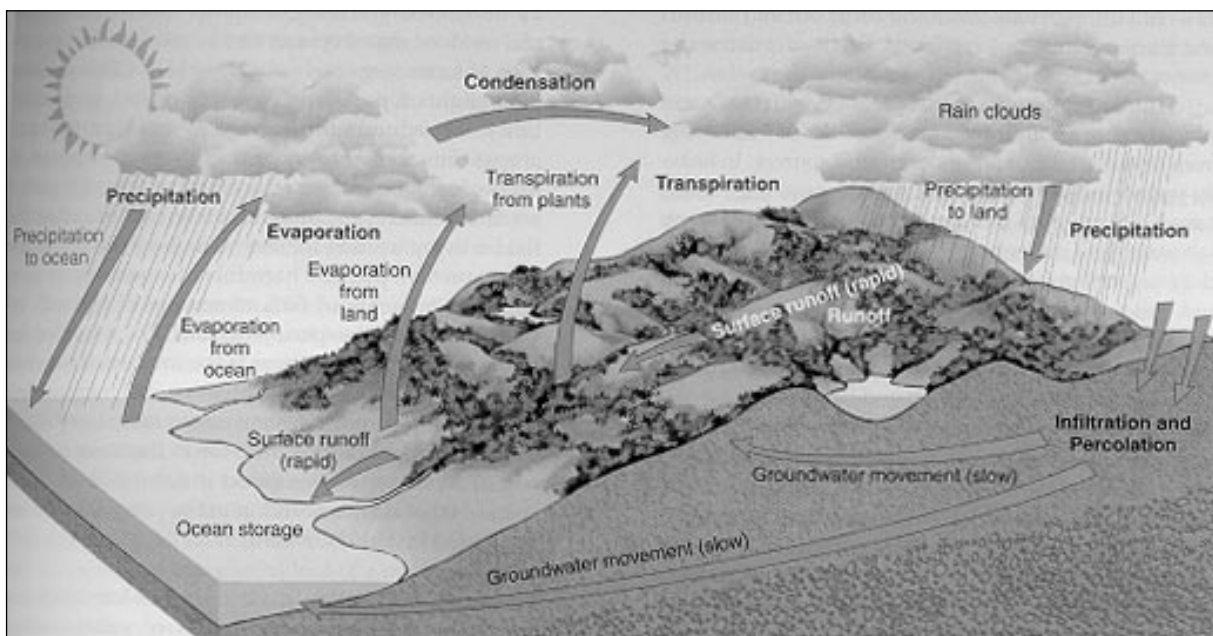
Ground water from deep, drilled wells is naturally filtered and less likely to be contaminated than surface water in lakes and rivers. It is also less likely to have shallow well contamination problems, often due to poorly installed septic systems.

Deep, drilled wells recharge themselves and can provide a constant, steady supply of water even during bouts of dry weather.

What is ground water?

Ground water can be found almost everywhere underground in cracks and spaces in sand, soil and rocks. It can be found just a few feet beneath the ground's surface or hundreds of feet underground.

Ground water is stored in aquifers. While in the aquifer, it moves slowly through the layers of sand, soil and fractured rocks. It sometimes comes to the surface naturally through a spring or by being discharged into lakes. An additional way to bring ground water to the surface is via a well.



More than 15 million U.S. households use individual wells to supply water for their families.

Steps you should take to protect your ground water and well water

- Maintain your well.
- Keep household chemicals and paint away from your well and dispose of them properly. Take used motor oil to a recycling center.
- Limit your use of pesticides and fertilizers. Don't put your hose inside the bucket or container when mixing fertilizer, pesticides or any other chemicals.
- Keep the top of your well at least 12 in. above the ground and don't pile leaves, mulch, dirt, snow or other materials around it.
- Be careful when you mow around your well so you don't damage the well casing. Never tie anything – including your pet – to the well.
- And remember... even though your well can meet all the water needs of a modern household, it is important to conserve water to protect the nation's ground water resources.

For more information on your ground water

Your local well contractor, health department, cooperative extension service and state environmental or natural resources agency can provide you with more information about ground water in your area. You can find them in your telephone directory. Look under "water wells" or "government agencies."

For more information about wells and other wellcare® publications

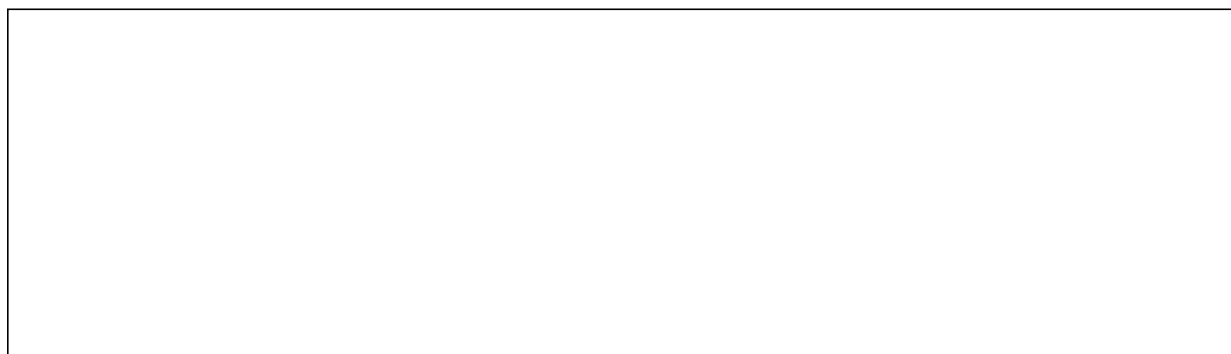
wellcare® is a program of the **Water Systems Council (WSC)**. WSC is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promote the wider use of wells as modern and affordable safe drinking water systems and to protect ground water resources nationwide.



Contact us at 888-395-1033 or visit www.watersystemscouncil.org

Other organizations you may want to contact:

The Ground Water Foundation	800-858-4844	www.groundwater.org
American Ground Water Trust	603-228-5444	www.agwt.org
National Ground Water Association	800-551-7379	www.ngwa.org



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