

wellcare[®] information for you about

Well Components:

Your Well Cap

The well cap seals the upper end of your well to prevent contaminants from entering the well. The watertight well cap covers and encloses the top of your well casing, while the top of the cap can be removed to service the well.

The well cap protects the exposed portion of the well casing, forms a protective cover from the elements and bars the entry of vermin or contaminants. It also should be tamper resistant.

Well caps are usually made of aluminum or a thermoplastic, and include a vented screen so that the pressure difference between the inside and outside of the well casing is equalized when water is pumped from the well.

The well casing and well cap should extend at least six to eight inches above the ground. If your well is near a river or stream, it should extend at least higher than historic flood levels to prevent overflows from contaminating your drinking water.

A variety of high quality, watertight well caps are approved by the industry. Ask your water well professional to use only a well cap that meets industry standards. PAS-97 is an industry standard for well caps. A listing of equipment that meets this standard is available on the Water Systems Council website: www.watersystemscouncil.org/standards.

Protecting Your Well Cap

The well cap is your first line of defense to prevent pollutants from penetrating your drinking water system. Inspect your well cap regularly to make sure it is in good condition.

Take care when working or mowing around the wellhead, which is easy to damage with heavy equipment. Don't pile snow, leaves or other materials around the wellhead, where they potentially can carry pollutants into the system.

Finally, hire a certified well professional to perform any new well construction or modification, or to close an old well. A professional can ensure that the well casing and well cap are sanitary and secure.

For more information on well components

Water Systems Handbook: A Complete Text on Wells, published by Water Systems Council, 11th Edition, 2000. Available for a fee from www.watersystemscouncil.org or by calling 202-625-4387.

For a primer on all well components, go to the National Ground Water Association site: www.wellowner.org/awaterwellbasics/typesmaterials.shtml

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.

Well owners and others with questions about wells or well water can now call the new wellcare® hotline at 888-395-1033 or visit www.watersystemscouncil.org



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