



COMMON ISSUES FOUND DURING AN NON-TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY SANITARY SURVEY







A Fact Sheet For Non-Transient Non-Community Water System Owners And Operators



A properly maintained water system is more likely to provide water that complies with current health standards. Routine reviews of your water system help identify potential problems. Fixing these problems will help ensure your water system remains safe. Please re-check your system and correct identified problems prior to a scheduled inspection when possible. Below you will find a list of the most common issues detected during a sanitary survey. Only contractors with the appropriate, state-required well drilling, pump installing or plumbing licenses should complete corrective action work.



Note: Your Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources representative will review more of the water system than the items listed below. A report will be provided after the site visit to identify any required corrective actions.

What To Look For	What Is The Concern?
<p>Damaged Or Loose Well Cap</p> 	<p>A damaged or loose well cap creates an opening for insects and vermin to get into the well casing. Once inside, they can end up in your water system. Check for missing or loose bolts on the well cap.</p>
<p>Broken Conduit</p> 	<p>Insects and vermin can enter the well cap through the broken conduit and contaminate your water supply.</p>

What To Look For		What Is The Concern?
Severely Corroded Well Casings		<p>When well casing deteriorate, they can allow contaminated surface water to enter the aquifer and contaminate nearby wells.</p>
Well Casing Height		<p>During flooding events, contaminated water may gain access to your well if it rises above the casing height or to the height of any vents or overflows. A well casing should be a minimum of 12 inches above the surrounding surface. Wells located in floodplains should be at least 24 inches above the site flood elevation (for wells constructed prior to 1991 there may be different height requirements).</p>
Well or Well House Is Not In Sanitary Condition		<p>Wells should be separated from potential contamination sources. Remove dirt and debris away from the general well location. Make sure the well is accessible and in sanitary condition.</p>
Water Storage Tank Inspections		<p>Water storage tanks with a hatch should be inspected and maintained every five years. Tanks over 10,000 gallons need to be inspected by a professional.</p>
Vacuum Breakers On Threaded Taps		<p>A cross connection is created when a hose is attached to a threaded faucet without a vacuum breaker. Contaminated water from the hose end may enter your water system.</p>
Cross Contamination		<p>Water treatment backwash piping plumbed directly into a drain or sump does not provide an air gap between potable water and wastewater. The cross connection could allow waste to back up into the piping and travel into the potable water system.</p>

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Dead End Water Line		Dead ends are created when plumbing fixtures are removed or taken out of service and the associated water lines are left in place. Water in these features may become stagnant and allow sediment to accumulate, creating conditions favorable for bacterial growth. These features are difficult to disinfect with chlorine.
Unused Wells		Wells that are not being used for more than two months and are not being used for any other purpose need to be permanently sealed and filled. If there is a well that you want to keep for use in the future, you have the option to enter into an extended well abandonment agreement which will require periodic sampling of the well.

Helpful Links

Find [a list of pump installers here](#).

Find [a list of well drillers here](#).

Find [information on the Wisconsin Rural Water Association here](#).

To view Wisconsin Administrative Codes for Non-Transient Non-Community water systems, visit:

- Safe Drinking Water: [Section NR 809, Wis. Adm. Code](#)
- Requirements for the Operation and Maintenance of Public Water Systems: [Chapter NR 810, Wis. Adm. Code](#)
- Well Construction and Pump Installation: [Chapter NR 812, Wis. Adm. Code](#)
- Certification Requirements for Waterworks, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Septage Servicing and Water System Operators: [Chapter NR 114, Wis. Adm. Code](#)

For more information regarding Non-Transient Non-Community water systems, [visit this website](#).

Find your county DNR Drinking Water and Groundwater Staff [here](#).

This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.

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