

# A Low Water Resource for Homeowners with Private Wells

## Why is low water a concern?

During times of low water conditions (e.g. drought, climate change) contaminants may have more direct access to your well. Low water creates a risk of running out of water in your well, and the quality of your well water may also be impacted. It is important to monitor your well water levels all year long to identify any potential water quality issues.

*Winter* - Surface water can freeze and decrease the volume of water entering the water table  
*Spring* - Rain and snow melt can saturate the ground and enter the water table quickly, which may not allow for proper filtration.

*Summer* - During times of limited precipitation, there is limited water refilling the water table

*Fall* - Heavy rainfall on dry cracked soil allows rain water to access groundwater without adequate filtration.

## When should I test my water?

Hastings Prince Edward Public Health recommends testing your well water a minimum of once per season to ensure your water is safe to consume. Test your water more often if you have a history of adverse results or if there is a change in the quantity and/or quality of your drinking water. For information on testing your well water visit the [Drinking Water](#) page at [hpePublicHealth.ca](http://hpePublicHealth.ca).

## Where do I find information on water level conditions?

To find information on local water level conditions, please visit websites for local conservation authorities:

- [Quinte Conservation](#)
- [Lower Trent Conservation](#)
- [Crowe Valley Conservation](#).

## How can I find out more information about my well?

For information about your well such as type, depth, flow rate and soil types go to the [MOECC well records](#) website. Contact a [licensed well contractor](#) prior to any work being done on your well.

### **What can I do during periods of low water levels?**

- Water conservation is the best way to avoid a dry well. Visit [Quinte Conservation](#) for tips on how to conserve water.
- For remedial options visit [Managing your water well in times of water shortage](#).
- If your well has gone dry, notify your local conservation authority.

### **What activities should I avoid when water levels are low?**

- Do not use water for unnecessary tasks such as watering the lawn or washing the car.
- Do not add surface water (i.e. river or lake water) to your well as this may contaminate groundwater with microorganisms or chemicals that are not safe to consume. Contact the [Ministry of Environment and Climate Change](#) if you suspect someone is compromising the groundwater in your area.
- Do not forget to test your drinking water at least once per season.

#### **For more information contact:**

Hastings Prince Edward Public Health

Environmental Health

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