

RESOURCES FOR PRIVATE WELL OWNERS

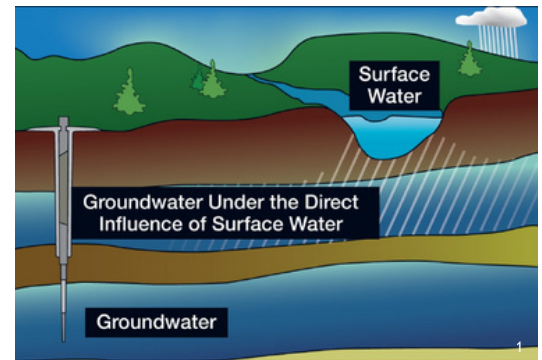


Raisin Region
Conservation Authority

GROUNDWATER & WELL TYPES

Your well receives water from an underground water source called an aquifer. This water originates from surface water and precipitation that filters through the sediment.¹

The most common well types in eastern Ontario are dug and drilled wells. Extremely shallow dug wells (less than 10 ft deep) can be more vulnerable to low water issues during periods of drought. Dug wells may also be more at risk of contamination.²



DUG WELL



DRILLED WELL



LEARN MORE ABOUT WELL TYPES

ontario.ca/page/private-rural-water-supplies



WHEN YOUR WELL RUNS DRY

Remedial Options to Consider*

- Use a temporary above-ground water storage tank for short term relief. Frost protection may be necessary during cold periods.
- Lower your pump or pump intake deeper into the well or upgrade to a larger pump if needed to achieve the recommended pumping rate.
- Increase pressure tank size. The additional storage may provide enough water during a dry period.
- Deepen your existing well or construct a new well. Review water well records and hydrogeological information for your immediate area to help establish if deeper aquifers exist.
- **Adding water to your well is not recommended.** It could contaminate your supply and damage your well and may not alleviate your water shortage problems during a drought.^{4, 5}

When Water Returns

After a water shortage, well water levels may take weeks or months to return to normal. Check that your well has enough water in it before you start using it. The water level should be close to normal.

Before you restart your well, you need enough water so that:

- the water level is 1–2 metres above the pump intake valve, or close to normal water levels.
- the pumping of water does not disturb silt or mud at the bottom of the well – this can lead to dirty water.
- the water volume meets your minimum daily use, so the well and pump do not immediately go dry again.

Consider hiring a licensed well contractor to:

- inspect your well and plumbing system.
- check for damage related to the well going dry.
- help return the well to service.

CONSERVING WATER

Though groundwater is a naturally replenishing source, your well may run low or dry at times. Conserving water when possible can lower the chance of your well running dry.¹

Ways to conserve water include:

- Repairing any leaks (e.g., taps and toilets)
- Reducing non-essential usage (e.g., lawn watering)
- Only washing full loads of laundry or dishes
- Installing a low-flow showerhead
- For farmers: monitoring irrigation system for leaks, and irrigating closer to the evening to reduce evaporation loss



***Be sure to consult a
LICENSED WELL CONTRACTOR
for any maintenance or upgrades**

ontario.ca/page/find-licensed-well-contractors



LEARN MORE ABOUT REMEDIAL OPTIONS

ontario.ca/page/managing-your-water-well-times-water-shortage#section-4





RETURNING YOUR WELL TO SERVICE

- Make sure the pumping system is working properly and has no air in it (from the well intake valve to the house pressure tank).
- If you have a water treatment device, check if it needs maintenance.
- Follow the disinfection procedures for the well, pumping system, and all plumbing (see below).
- Test your well water for bacteria, and if you have noticed recent changes in water conditions, you should also test for general chemistry and metals chemistry.⁴



DISINFECTING YOUR WELL

Disinfecting a well can help neutralize pathogens that could have been introduced during well maintenance or as a result of water being dumped into well.

See Public Health Ontario's Well Disinfection Tool for an easy way to calculate the amount of chlorine product needed to disinfect a well, along with precautions and procedures.³



TO ACCESS THE WELL DISINFECTION TOOL

publichealthontario.ca/en/Laboratory-Services/Well-Water-Testing/Well-Disinfection-Tool



TESTING YOUR WELL FOR BACTERIA

The Eastern Ontario Health Unit offers free private well water testing. You should test your well water for bacteria (total coliform and E-coli):

- every three months.
- if you suspect a waterborne illness.
- if you notice a change in colour, odour or taste.⁶



SAMPLE DROP-OFF HOURS

eohu.ca/en/my-environment/well-water-testing



WATER USER FEEDBACK FORM



Have you been impacted by low water? Help the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA) gauge local impacts of low water by filling out the water user feedback form available at rrca.on.ca/LowWater



About the RRCA and Low Water

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) manages water use during a drought. Ontario's Low Water Response Program ensures provincial and local authorities are prepared in the event of low water conditions. The RRCA assists the ministry by assessing local watershed conditions and notifying residents. The RRCA monitors precipitation and water levels throughout Cornwall, South Glengarry, and large portions of North Glengarry and South Stormont.