

# LILLY LAKE NEWS

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### Well Water Facts:

- ◆ Over 15 million people in the U.S. rely on private wells.
- ◆ Well water comes from water held between rock and soil particles, not underground rivers or lakes.
- ◆ 10% of private wells in Wisconsin exceeded standards for nitrate.
- ◆ Wisconsin has about 1.2 billion gallons of water underground.



### How can I test my water?

- Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th Street, Bristol
- City of Burlington, 2100 S. Pine St.
- A certified lab (check local listing or internet)

## HOW IS YOUR WATER?

The first thought that may have come to your mind when you read the title is “how is the water in the lake?”, but this article is asking the question about your well water.

In Wisconsin, nearly 900,000 homes rely on a well for their primary water source. It is recommended that every private well be tested periodically, even annually if there has been a history of problems, or you are having taste or odor issues.

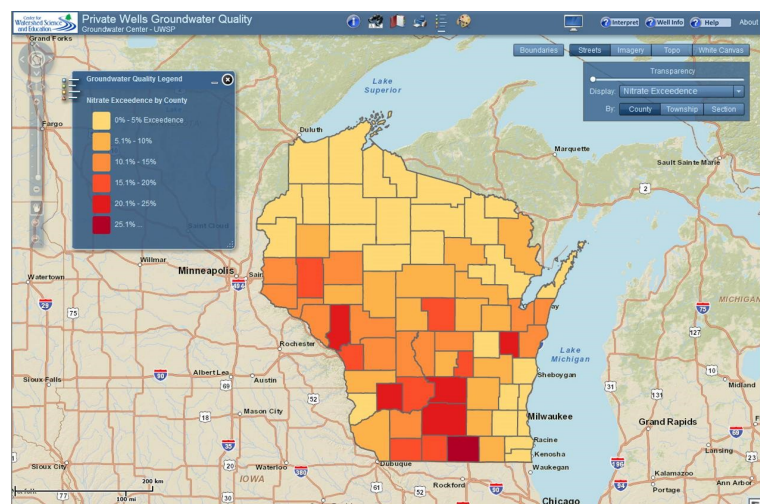
The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has created a website that has a well water viewer tool that you can use to look at well water quality conditions in your community.

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/watershed/Pages/wellwaterviewer.aspx>

The website is full of information on groundwater and wells.

So what kind of tests should you have your water tested for?

- Total coliform bacteria and E. coli - These bacteria are found in the soil and the intestines of warm blooded animals.
- Nitrate - Found in fertilizers, soils, septic systems and can cause “blue baby” syndrome in infants.
- Hardness - This is helpful when considering a water softener.
- Iron and sulfur bacteria - Cause of staining and odor problems.
- Pesticides - Should be tested if you live within 1/4 mile of an agricultural field.
- Lead and Copper - Found in plumbing pipes, particularly in older homes.
- Other tests to consider: radium, boron, arsenic, solvents (VOCs)



### Septic Myths

- \* **Use of garbage disposals and water softeners will not harm your system - Use in moderation.**
- \* **Pumping is unnecessary if bacteria additives are used - Untrue, you still need to pump**
- \* **Septic systems last a lifetime - Typically they last 25-30 years.**



### Planning for 2014

Do you have an idea for our community? Want to include something in the newsletter?

Please contact:  
Mike Adam at  
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or 262-537-2413.



Be safe out there!!

## SEPTICS, PART 2

In the last newsletter, the importance of maintaining your septic system was addressed. If you read the well water article on the first page of this newsletter, you noticed that one of the sources of well water contamination is septic systems. A properly functioning septic affects your health and the health of the lake. Make it a priority to ensure your system is operating correctly. Pumping your system every 3 years, or annually if you have a holding tank, is the first step. You may have to pump it more frequently if you have a large number of people living in your house. As a reminder, Kenosha County requires proof of septic maintenance every three years, and annually if you have a holding tank.

Next, watch what you flush down the toilet or drain. Don't put anything down that will not decompose quickly, including, sanitary napkins, paper towels, kitty litter, and disposable diapers. Be wary of products that say "biodegradable", such as some cleaning wipes. They will likely clog your system before they break down if they do at all. Also, avoid using harsh chemicals. Your septic relies on bacteria to break down the waste. Introducing chemicals like bleach may kill or significantly reduce these bacteria. The same goes with paint, paint thinners, gas, and oil. Please dispose of them properly. Just because it is "down" doesn't mean it's gone.

Don't build or plant anything (other than grass) on top of the septic's drain field. Roots from shrubs and trees can damage the field. Also do not drive heavy machinery on the area as compaction can damage the system.

Protect the drain field from excess rainwater. Ponding water will negatively affect your system's performance, including causing a messy failure.

Finally, if you think the cost of pumping or caring for your system is a nuisance or costs too much, think of the alternative. If your system is not properly maintained you run the risk of failure. Cost to repair or replace the system could easily cost thousands. A new system can be over \$10,000.

## LILLY LAKE WATER LEVELS - 2013

