How Can I Reduce My Risk?
There are precautions well owners can take to reduce exposure risk to potential contaminants:
• Periodically inspect the wellhead for cracks, corrosion, and damage to seals
• Slope areas surrounding wells to drain surface runoff away from well
• Keep well casings a minimum of 12 inches above the ground’s surface
• Hire a certified well driller or licensed contractor to construct water wells, install pumping equipment, and for maintenance or major repairs
• Avoid mixing or using pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, degreasers, fuels, and other pollutants near the well
• Never dispose of chemicals, solvents, petroleum products, medicine or pesticides in a septic system or dry well

What Can I Do If I Have a Problem With My Well?
If a contaminant is found or suspected in the well water, treatment options are available including disinfection, filters and other more complex systems.

Just remember that treatment systems must be properly maintained to ensure water quality.

For more information about Water Quality and Disease Prevention services, contact:
Tri-County Health Department
6162 South Willow Drive, Suite 100
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
(720) 200-1583
www.tchd.org/water.htm

For more information about the Colorado Environmental Public Health Tracking Network, contact:
Colorado Environmental Public Health Tracking
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South,
Denver, CO 80246,
Email: CDPHE.DCDCOEPHT@state.co.us
www.coepht.dphe.state.co.us

Is Your Well Well? Test Your Well Water Annually
Whether you are new to owning a well or a long-time well owner, water quality is a persistent concern.

Rural residents often worry about the quality of their water. Some people think of well water as the purest on earth, while others are concerned about the effects of high levels of bacteria and other contaminants.

One thing is known, the very nature of groundwater makes it vulnerable to contamination.

Well Water Quality
While most private wells provide a clean, safe supply of water, natural contaminants and human activity can pollute well water.

Contaminants may possibly come from natural sources, damaged septic systems, fertilizers, excess animal waste, household chemicals, and de-icing road salts.

These contaminants may or may not be filtered out before they reach the ground water, and could cause illness. Because contaminants in water typically cannot be seen, smelled or tasted, private well water should be tested on a regular basis.

Who is at Risk?
City residents typically rely on water treatment plants to test and treat drinking water. Private well owners, on the other hand, are responsible for testing and treating their own water supplies.

Private well owners should test their water annually, and in some cases more often. More frequent testing may be needed if:
• Someone in the household is pregnant or nursing
• There are unexplained gastrointestinal illnesses in the household
• Contaminants are found in a neighboring well
• There is a change in water taste, odor, color or clarity
• There is a spill of chemicals or fuels in or near the well
• There has been a recent natural disaster such as a flood or fire

What Should I Know About Testing My Well?
How often you test your well and what tests should be done will depend on many factors such as where you live, local geology and what activities take place near the source of your well water.

You can find out more about what is currently known about private well water quality in Colorado by visiting the Colorado Environmental Public Health Tracking Network's website at www.coepht.dphe.state.co.us.

Well Water Testing
Water collection procedures vary depending on the type of test being done.

For a reliable test result, use a sample container from a certified laboratory and follow the laboratory instructions exactly.

To obtain supplies and bottles to use for testing, contact the laboratory or call the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Laboratory at 303-692-3074.

You can also contact Tri-County Health Department regarding required testing, recommended testing, and other water quality questions.