

Understanding Your Water:

Where Homeowners Can Find Resources for City and Well Water

Introduction

Whether your home is connected to a municipal water system or relies on a private well, understanding where your water comes from—and how to ensure it’s safe and reliable—is essential. Water plays a vital role in your family’s health, your home’s function, and your long-term maintenance costs. Fortunately, there are a number of trusted resources available to help you better understand, monitor, and manage your water supply. In this guide, we’ll break down where homeowners can find key resources for both **city water** and **well water** systems.

City Water Resources: What You Should Know

If your home uses city or municipal water, your water supply is managed, treated, and regulated by a public utility. While this often means higher oversight and regular testing, it’s still important to understand what’s in your water and how it gets to your tap.

1. Municipal Water Department Websites

Most cities or towns have a dedicated website for their water department or utility service. These websites typically include:

- Water quality reports (Consumer Confidence Reports)
- Billing information
- Conservation tips
- Details about infrastructure or service updates

Start by searching “[Your City] Water Department” to find the official site.

2. Water Quality Reports (Consumer Confidence Reports)

Each year, your water provider is required to publish a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), detailing:

- Detected contaminants
- Treatment methods
- Compliance with federal standards

These reports are typically mailed or available online and provide an easy-to-understand breakdown of your water’s safety and quality.

3. Environmental Working Group (EWG) Tap Water Database

The [EWG Tap Water Database](#) allows you to search your zip code and see a detailed breakdown of the contaminants found in your city’s water—compared to both legal limits and health guidelines. This is a great way to see what’s really in your water and whether you might benefit from filtration.

4. ASCE Infrastructure Report Card

The [American Society of Civil Engineers \(ASCE\) Infrastructure Report Card](#) evaluates water infrastructure across the U.S. It provides grades for your state's systems, including drinking water and wastewater treatment, giving you insights into aging infrastructure and the need for investment in your area.

5. Local Government and Environmental Groups

City hall, state environmental agencies, and nonprofit water conservation organizations often provide:

- Educational materials
- Conservation rebates
- Public workshops

Engaging locally can help you stay proactive about your water use and better understand any changes in service or quality.

Well Water Resources: Private Doesn't Mean Alone

Homeowners with private wells are responsible for their own water testing, treatment, and maintenance. This can seem overwhelming, but there's a wealth of resources available to help you stay informed and protected.

1. Local Health Departments & Extension Offices

Your county or state health department often offers:

- Free or low-cost well water testing
- Guidelines for well construction and safety
- Workshops and local recommendations

Extension offices, often tied to state universities, can provide agricultural insight, groundwater data, and homeowner support.

2. Certified Water Testing Labs

Routine testing is essential for private wells. Homeowners should test for:

- Bacteria (e.g., coliform)
- Nitrates
- Heavy metals (e.g., arsenic, lead)
- pH levels and hardness

Look for state-certified labs in your area. Many offer home testing kits and clear guidance on what to do if results are outside recommended ranges.

3. Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA)

The EPA provides helpful tools for well owners, including:

- Well owner best practices
- Fact sheets for specific contaminants
- Information on grants or funding for repairs or upgrades

Visit [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov) for more details.

4. National Ground Water Association (NGWA)

Through WellOwner.org, the NGWA offers:

- Maintenance tips
- Seasonal checklists
- Webinars and how-to guides

This site is a goldmine for homeowners looking to understand, maintain, or improve their private well systems.

5. Online Well Owner Communities

Forums like Reddit's "r/homestead" or the Well Water Forum allow homeowners to ask questions, share experiences, and get advice from others using wells. These real-world insights can be especially helpful when dealing with local issues or looking for trusted contractors.

Conclusion: No Matter the Source, Knowledge is Power

Whether your home draws from city water or a private well, the key to safety and peace of mind is staying informed. City water users benefit from regulated testing and municipal infrastructure, but should still review their annual water quality reports and explore local issues. Well owners take on more responsibility, but also enjoy more control—provided they test regularly and maintain their systems.

By tapping into the resources outlined above—from municipal sites and EWG databases to local health departments and national groundwater associations—you can confidently manage your home's most vital resource: water.

Need Help Testing Your Water or Finding a Contractor?

Visit <https://lwgconnect.com/dealers> to find a Lancaster Water Group dealer near you. No dealer in your area? Contact one of our wholesale partners for a contractor referral.

Note: Lancaster Water Group does not vet or guarantee third-party contractors and is not responsible for the quality of their service.