

A POWTS REMINDER

Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) are still the major means of treating and disposing of sanitary waste in the Linn Sanitary District. Decentralized sanitary waste management takes a combined effort of the sanitary district and the home owner. To the many district residents who have cooperated over the years in the inspection, upgrading and maintenance of their system, we thank you.

POWTS require on-going maintenance if they are to continue to properly treat and dispose of sanitary waste. In addition to a three year pumping, visual inspection of specific components can assure that the POWTS will be able to do its job correctly.

- Make sure the system is water tight
 - cover is tight fitting and locked
 - risers are watertight
 - the tank is solid
- Make sure your baffles are good.
- No standing water in the vent pipe.
- Install and maintain an effluent filter.
- Avoid adding harsh chemical to the wastewater.
- Don't compact the soil over your soil absorption field.
- Don't plant deep rooted plants on your soil absorption field.

There are still several systems identified by our inspection program as having problems that still need to be rectified. The Linn Sanitary District is working on correcting these system to assure a potable water supply for all its residents. If you have question about your POWTS or well feel free to contact the Linn Sanitary District at 262-245-4532



**PLEASE OPEN AND READ. IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ON THE 2014 WELL TESTING PROGRAM.**

LINN SANITARY DISTRICT

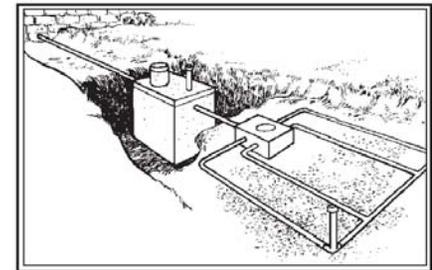
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<http://www.townoflinn.com/Sanitary.htm>

SPRING 2014 Newsletter

*-FOR OUR HEALTH-
-AND GENEVA LAKE'S PROTECTION-*

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TEST YOUR WELL



This summer, 2014, the Linn Sanitary District will again make available to its residents an opportunity to test the quality of their drinking water. Working with the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, George Williams College and the

Walworth County Public Health Services, we are putting together a well testing program that will involve working with the homeowners of the District to meet with program crew members to sample their drinking water for nitrates and bacteria at a reduced rate (\$10).

The Linn Sanitary District has been a longtime advocate of homeowners annually testing their private drinking water wells. In 2011 we offered an opportunity for home owners to have their well water samples analyzed for nitrates, bacteria and arsenic at a reduced rate. Unfortunately not many took advantage of the opportunity.

Even if you tested your well last year, things can change in a year. Plumbing changes can change the water quality that comes out of your tap. Changes in land use near your well can change the quality of your well water. A bumping of the casing by equipment can cause a crack or opening in the well casing that can allow pollutants to enter the well and the groundwater. Any of these can change the quality of your water with some of them causing changes even if they occurred on neighboring properties some distance away.

Frequently Asked Questions On Our Well Testing Program:

Why is it important to test my well? Private drinking water wells are not required to be tested other than when some work is done on the well. Thus, if you do not test your well, no one else will. Drinking water from the groundwater can become contaminated by many different means, some natural and some caused by land use activities. It is strongly recommended that private wells be tested at least once a year.

Why test for bacteria, nitrates and arsenic? Nitrates and bacteria are the most common drinking water contaminants found in private wells. In the Geneva Lake area arsenic has been found in some of the area's deep wells due to the type of bed rock found under the glacial sand and gravel. Drinking water that exceeds the drinking water standards of these three parameters can lead to serious health issues.

Who would collect the Samples? The Project will include crews of two staff people who will meet with the homeowner to sample the well at a predetermined time. The sampling crew will be responsible for proper sampling, handling and getting the sample to the lab.

How much would this cost? The cost to the homeowner will be \$10/ sample. This covers everything including sampling, analysis for nitrate and bacteria, and processing the results.

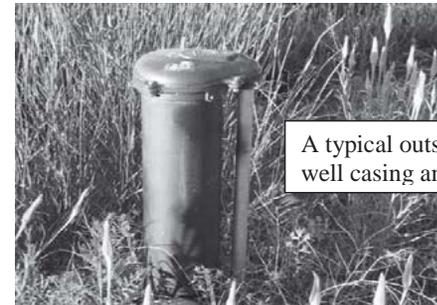
When would my well be tested? Right now we are looking at making arrangements with homeowners to sample wells during June, July and maybe August 2014.

What happens to the results? The results of the well water tests will be sent to the GLEA who will process the

information in a data base and then send results to the homeowner.

If my water tests bad, what do I do? Along with receiving the results, homeowners will receive information on what the results mean and recommendations for any needed corrective action.

Why so many partners? Each partner brings a needed component and interest to the project. The GLEA is interested in the quality of the groundwater that moves into Geneva Lake. The Linn Sanitary District has the responsibility to assure that its residents have a good potable water supply. George Williams College has students who can intern for the project and learn about public health and water quality. Walworth County Division of Public Health has a lab that will be doing the water analysis and will offer interns under the Area Health Educational Center intern program.



A typical outside well casing and cap.

For information on wells and well testing visit:

Wisconsin Depart of Natural Resource at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wells/privateWellTest.html>

Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene at:

<http://www.slh.wisc.edu/ehd/watermicro/>