

## **Well maintenance**

As a rural community with private wells, it is important to understand how what you do or don't do in your yard impacts your well.

Some recommended ideas for maintaining safe drinking water for your home:

- Have your well checked annually, and have it tested for bacteria. The Franklin Township Environmental Commission runs an annual well testing program in May in conjunction with Raritan Headwaters.
- Have your drinking water tested if there is a change in taste, odor or appearance, or when the well system is serviced.
- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides and motor oil, far away from the well.
- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair.
- Maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems or chemical storage.
- Don't allow fertilizers or pesticides to flow back into your well.
- When mixing such chemicals, don't put the hose inside the container.
- Install hose bibb vacuum breakers or use anti-siphon outdoor faucets.
- When landscaping, keep the top of your well at least 1 foot above the ground.
- Slope the ground away from your well for drainage.
- Take care not to damage the well casing. It could jeopardize the sanitary protection of your well.
- Don't pile snow, leaves or other materials around your well.
- Keep the well construction report, annual well system maintenance records and water testing results in a safe place.