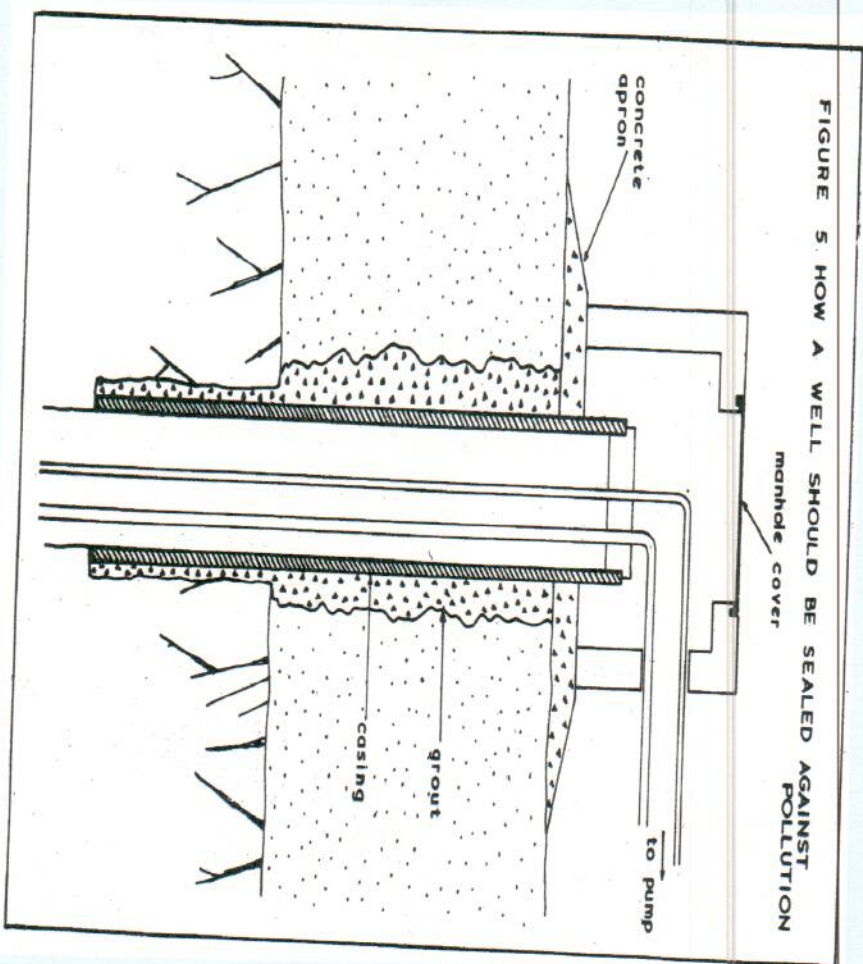


PROTECTION OF YOUR WELL

Surface water should not be allowed to run down the well, inside or outside the casing. The ground should be built up around the well so that there is a gradient of at least 1:4 away from the well. The overburden should be sealed by cement, grout or puddle clay.

Oil, fertilizer, pesticides or other chemicals should not be stored or left in the pump house or close to the well. Diesel tanks should be far enough away and banded because leaking tanks of diesel fuel have contaminated some wells in Ireland. (Plan courtesy of the GSI).



DISINFECTION OF YOUR WELL

Wells can become polluted without showing any noticeable difference in taste or smell. It is advisable, as a precaution, to disinfect your well at least once a year.

Contaminated well water is in many cases a hidden danger to which the very young, the elderly and the sick are at most risk.

PROCEDURE FOR DISINFECTING YOUR WELL

This method is for the disinfection of a well water supply, water storage tank, water carrying pipe work and hot and cold-water cylinders. Approximately 1,100 litres of water will be used.

Caution: If you have a filter or any other type of water treatment on any part of your system, consult your supplier before following this procedure. Heavily chlorinated water may affect the filter or the chlorine may be absorbed by the filter rendering the procedure ineffective.

1. To 25 litres of water add 5 litres of a 1% w/v solution of Sodium Hypochlorite.

While we do not endorse any individual products, any one of the following products may be used diluted in 25 litres of water.

- (a) 2.5 litres of Milton or similar products with 2% w/v Sodium Hypochlorite.
- or
- (b) 0.5 litres of Sterichlor or similar products with 10/11% Sodium Hypochlorite.

Disinfection products sold for use on the farm will be acceptable for use in disinfecting wells. However, it is important to seek advice about their use and it is advisable to always use the product in about 25 litres of water.

2. Pour half of the solution into the well.
3. Turn on the drinking water tap in the kitchen and let the water run until there is a distinct smell of chlorine from the water. Then turn off the tap.
4. Turn on all other taps and let the water run until there is a distinct smell of chlorine from the water. Then turn off the taps.
5. Pour the other half of the solution into the well. Turn off the well pump and ensure that the well is covered properly. Allow to stand overnight or for at least 8 hours.
6. After at least 8 hours reconnect the pump. Turn on all taps and let the water run until the smell of chlorine is gone. Turn off all taps.
7. Arrange for the water to be tested.

N.B. This method is only suitable as a once off shock disinfecting procedure and cannot replace a proper treatment system if your water supply needs continuous disinfection.

TESTING YOUR WELL

It is advisable to have your well water tested once a year for bacterial contamination and once every three years for chemical contamination. Your local EHO will arrange testing (see front page for contact details).