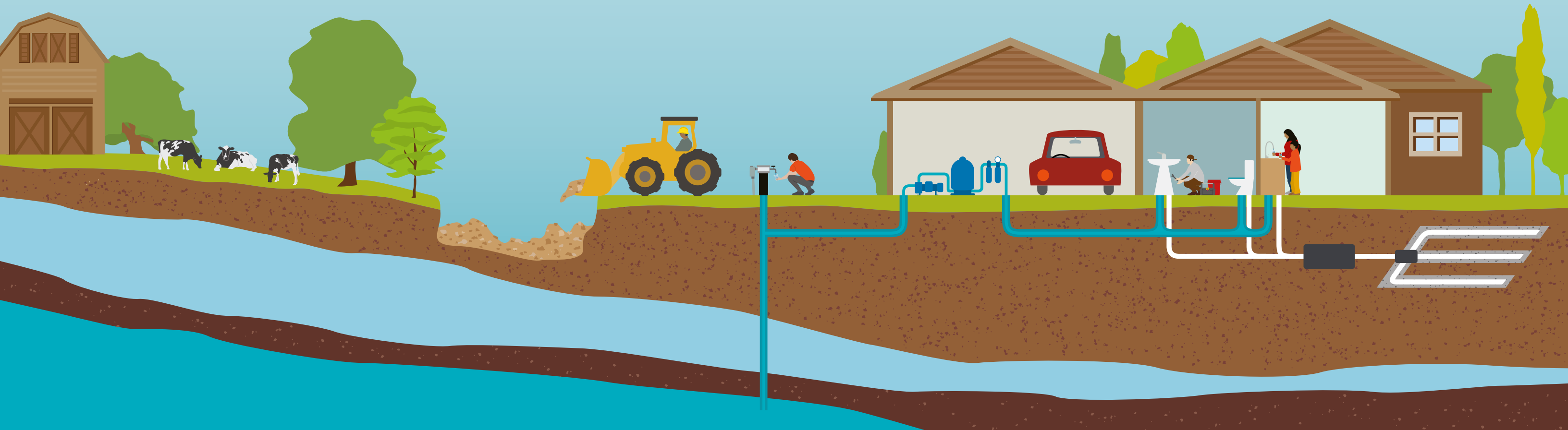


State Policies to Improve Drinking Water Quality in Private Well Systems

The quality of drinking water from private wells can be adversely impacted by a wide range of factors and at different points in a physical system—from contaminants that leach into the groundwater supply, to ineffective water treatment equipment installed under a kitchen sink. State policies play an important role in addressing these issues because private wells are not subject to drinking water standards set by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

To learn more about how states can use policy to promote health and safety at each step in the physical system, refer to our fact sheet, *From Source to Tap: State Policies to Improve Drinking Water Quality in Private Well Systems*.



Policy Categories



Water & Water Quality

Groundwater

Protect and monitor groundwater quality, and actively manage groundwater resources.

Wells & Related Infrastructure

Extend federal drinking water standards to private wells and enforce them by requiring regular well water testing.

Indoor Plumbing

Require tap sampling for contaminants that may enter drinking water through the plumbing system.



Land Use & Infrastructure

Ensure that facilities and infrastructure likely to contribute to groundwater contamination are sited, constructed, maintained, and abandoned in accordance with safe design standards.

Establish construction standards and permitting programs for new and modified wells, and provide financial assistance to property owners for well improvements and testing.

Mandate minimum safety standards for the installation and maintenance of plumbing systems.



People & Industries

Encourage businesses and industries to use best practices for groundwater protection; increase taxes and fees on polluting products; and require healthcare providers to report groundwater-contamination related illnesses.

Require licensing for well drillers, contractors, and water testing laboratories, and prohibit deceptive advertising of water treatment products.

Require professional licensing for plumbers.