



# Maine Environmental Laboratory

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## Water factors to consider in buying or building a new home

(from USGS Groundwater, [https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/gw\\_ruralhomeowner/](https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/gw_ruralhomeowner/))

Problem	Probable cause	Remedy or Source of help
Inadequate water yield	Poor aquifer	Install larger, deeper well
	Well screen or pump intake encrusted	Have cleaned by well driller
	Lower water level	Deepen well
		Contact water resources agency
Wet basement	Seasonally high water table	Add sump pump or drains
	Recovered water level	Add sump pump or drains
	Drainage from roof or slope	Add roof gutter, reslope land
		Contact Soil Conservation Service
Gas in water	Methane from bedrock	Install vent on well head
		Aerate the water
		Install water treatment
		Drill new well away from house
		Contact State geological survey
Salty water	Road salting	Install new well farther upslope
		Provide better road drainage
	Road-salt stockpile	Install new well away from drainage
		Request correction by highway department
		Contact health department
Fuel-oil contamination	Leaky or spilled storage tank	Install new well upslope
		Adjust to low pumping rate
Oil or gasoline contamination	Nearby service station	Obtain new source of water
		Contact health department
Bacteria contamination	Septic effluent	Chlorinate as first step ; contact health department
		Install new well upslope
		Install new leach field farther away
		Deepen well in some cases

Bacteria contamination, cont.		Seek control on neighboring system
	Barnyard waste	Redirect waste flow
		Install new well upslope
		Seek control on neighbor's activity
		Contact agricultural agency
Organic chemical contamination	Former land use	Install new well farther away
		Deepen well in some cases
		Contact health department
	Current land application	Create buffer zone around recharge area
		Dispose of wash water properly
		Seek control on neighbor's activity
		Contact health department
Land Subsidence	Excessive ground-water withdrawal	Contact State regulatory agency
	Rock solution	Relocate house
		Contact State geological survey
Sinkhole development	Rock solution	Relocate house
		Contact State geological survey
Source of ground water unknown	No knowledge	Contact water resource agency
	No well data available	Contact water resource agency