

## **Maintaining Your Well and Water System**

- The well casing should be examined periodically to make sure the well cap is properly sealed. A tight seal prevents material from entering and contaminating the well.
- The well and the distribution system should be disinfected after any repairs or alterations in the system, such as replacement or installation of a pump, water heater, softener, sink or filter.

### **If your system has a softener:**

- Salt is to a softener what gasoline is to a car. Ask your dealer/vendor what type of salt to use to ensure efficient recharging of the unit.
- Always have an adequate supply of salt on hand.
- A brine or salt storage tank should always be covered to prevent dirt and other foreign material from entering the tank.
- Check the salt level of your brine tank periodically.
- Add salt to your brine tank before the salt level falls below the water level (bottom one-third of tank). Fill the tank approximately three-fourths full.
- Brine tanks require periodic disinfection no matter what kind of salt you are using. Add about half a cup of bleach to the tank. The brine tank should have water in it to carry the solution into the softener. Finally, proceed with regeneration.

### **If you have a home filtration unit such as an activated carbon filter:**

- You should periodically replace the carbon canisters. If not, the filter's material can provide a growth surface for certain bacteria.

### **If you have another treatment device:**

- Whether you have a point of use (POU) or point of entry (POE) unit, all treatment devices require periodic maintenance to operate effectively. If they are not properly maintained, contaminants may accumulate in the unit and could actually make your water worse.

### **For seasonal systems:**

- At the end of the season, make sure all lines are drained and the hot water heater is emptied. At the start of a new season (early spring), completely disinfect the well and the plumbing system. Disinfection should eliminate potentially harmful bacteria and viruses from the water. If you need information about how to disinfect your well, ask your Minnesota Department of Health sanitarian or call the MDH at 651.215.0770.

For technical assistance call  
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