

Well Head Security

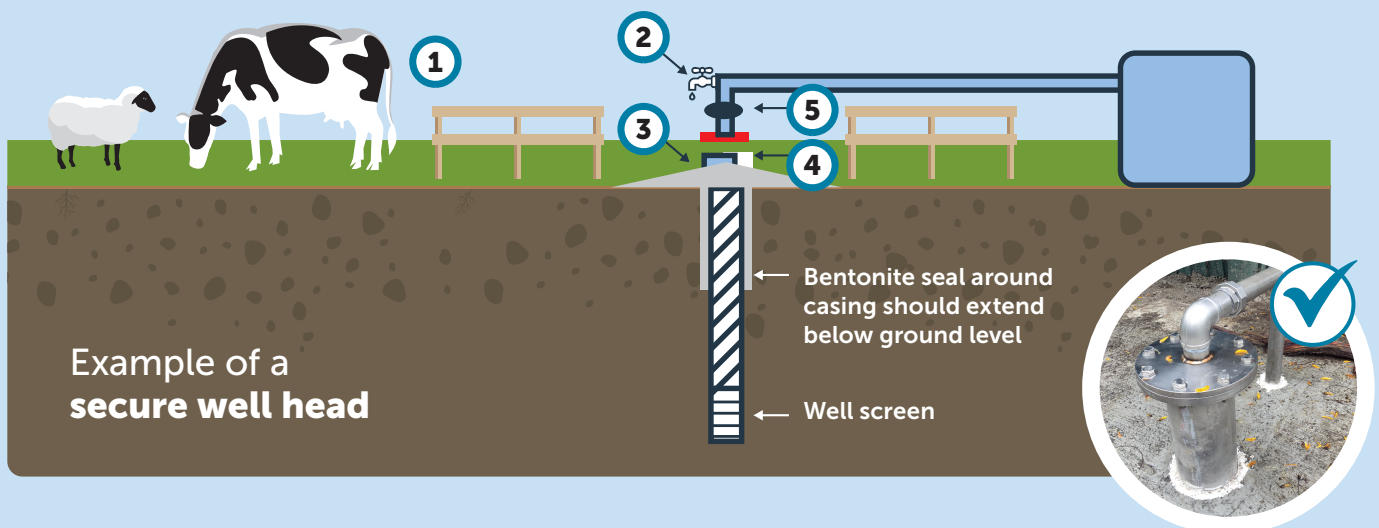
Do you have a well on your property? Is it constructed in a way that prevents contaminants from entering groundwater? Horizons Regional Council is currently surveying wells and carrying out a well head security assessment on wells across the region.

Unsecure wells represent a potential pathway for contaminants such as *E. coli* to enter groundwater from the surface, posing a risk to surrounding drinking water supplies.

Potential points of entry to groundwater from a well can be from down the sides of the well casing, or openings in the well head itself. Contaminants

drawn into a well can travel through groundwater and subsequently be drawn up through other wells. All wells need to be secure, whether they are in use or not.

Our assessment will include a visual inspection of the well and how it is currently set up. This diagram provides a few tips for ensuring a well is secure.



1

Keep the area around the well head clear of chemicals and rubbish. Stock should be fenced away from a well head.

2

Sample point - if you suspect a problem with your water supply you should get it tested.

3

The area immediately around the bore casing should be sealed with a concrete apron. It should slope away from the bore to prevent any surface water flowing into the bore.

4

The well casing should be elevated above ground and above stormwater and flood levels. The top of the well should be securely capped and hoses or cables going into the well should be securely sealed.

5

A backflow preventer should be installed to make sure no contaminants can siphon back into the bore.

If you have any further questions please email groundwater@horizons.govt.nz

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