



Ask the Realtor: I have a private well, what do I need to do

Unlike town/city water, which tests the water supply annually, if you have a well that provides your home with water, you are responsible for testing the water supply.

It is recommended that you test and sanitized your well once a year. Testing should cover total coliform bacteria, nitrates, ph levels and fecal bacterial. You may also want to test for chemicals such as lead, arsenic, radium and mercury. Certain contaminants in ground water are natural elements that get pick up as water dissolves the rock and soil (like uranium, radon and arsenic). Having high levels of any of these elements/chemicals can cause health concerns, sometimes serious ones. If you should notice a change in water quality (color, smell, appearance or taste) you should also have your water tested.

Most private wells produce hard water. That's because they are accessing ground water that has travelled through rock and soil dissolving minerals like calcium and magnesium. Hardness can cause iron stains and possibly cause your appliances (like your water heater) to wear out quickly. If you have hard water, you should consider adding a water softener to avoid these problems.

Sanitizing your well is needed to kill the build up of any biomass that may be present. To sanitize your well, you should chlorinate it. This is not done with household bleach or swimming pool chlorine. You will need a special Well Chlorination kit that can be purchased at water testing facilities.

If you are considering buying or selling, let's work together and make it a realty reality.

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The Swans are coming

Boston Garden is such a peaceful place in the spring time and summer. You will find children playing with Mrs Mallard and her eight (8) ducklings (Jack, Kack, Lack, Mack, Nack, Ouack, Pack and Quack), businessmen and women eating their lunch in the park, or even a wedding.

But the swans haven't made their way to the lagoon at the garden yet. On Thursday, May 2nd, Romeo and Juliet, Boston Public Gardens resident swans, will make their way from the Franklin Park Zoo, to the Boston Public Garden to live in their new home. And not without some fanfare.

Celebrating the 30th annual return of the swans, at 11am there will be a parade hosted by Mary Marty Walsh and the Boston Parks Commissioner, Chris Cook. It will start at the corner of Beacon and Charles St and make its way to the Public Garden. The parade will be led by a brass band and there will be much fanfare. On the garden there will be a reading of "Make Way For Ducklings", street vendors, face painting and children's activities.

While you're at the garden, take a swan boat tour. For \$4 per adult, \$3.50 for seniors and \$2.50 for children (ages 2 – 15), a tour around the lagoon is a must. The boat tours have been open since April and will continue through Labor day. The ride lasts about 15 minutes. And who knows, maybe Romeo or Juliet will come along side of your tour and say hello.

After your tour, stop in at one of the many restaurants around the park to complete your day. From sandwiches to gourmet, American to Chinese to Italian, there is plenty to choose from.

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