



## THE PROBLEM:

If your well is not protected, bacteria and chemicals can find their way into it and contaminate the water. People and animals that drink this water can get sick.



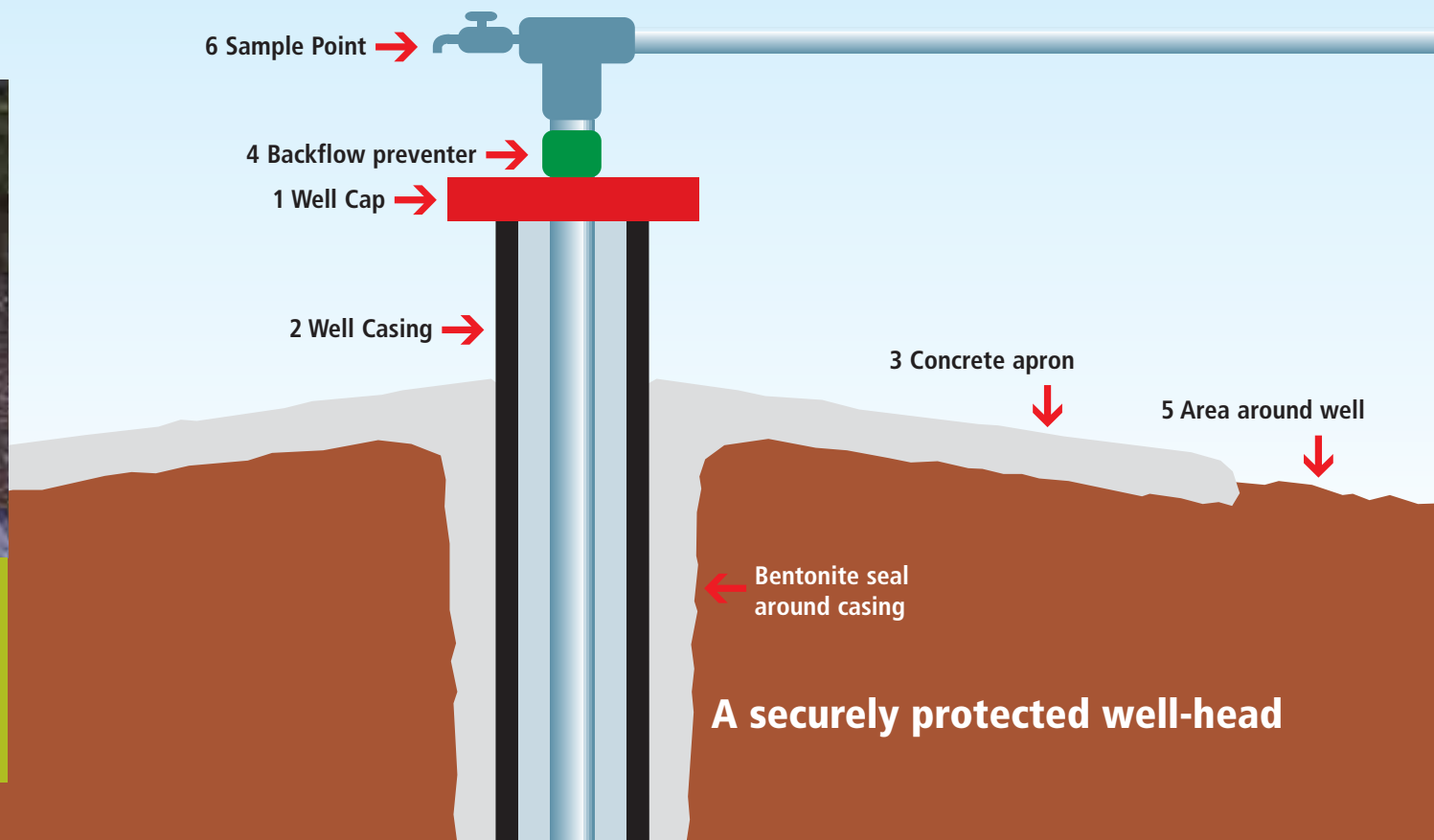
## THE SOLUTION:

Good well-head protection. Protect your well-head (the top of the well where it emerges from ground). Remember, this is your drinking water. Whatever goes down your well, ends up in your glass.



**For a secure well-head, follow these steps:**

- 1 Well cap**  
Install a secure well cap, and seal between the casing and any hoses or cables going down the well.
- 2 Well casing**  
Ensure the well casing is elevated at least half a metre above the ground surface.
- 3 Concrete apron**  
Seal between the well casing and the surrounding ground with a concrete apron. If you're drilling a new well, install a bentonite seal around the casing.
- 4 Backflow preventer**  
Install a back-flow preventer to stop contaminants siphoning back into your well.
- 5 Area around well**  
Keep the area around the well-head clear of animals, pesticides, fertilisers, compost and rubbish.
- 6 Sample point**  
Have your groundwater supply analysed if you suspect a problem with the water quality.



# How can contamination occur?

## RAINFALL

- Rain water can wash contaminants directly into your well

## ANIMALS

- Animal and bird droppings can fall down an open well
- Insects and small animals climb down your well and die there

## CHEMICALS

- Oil and petrol can leak into your well from nearby machinery
- Pesticides stored or sprayed nearby can find their way into your well
- Contaminants can back-siphon into your well from stock troughs or chemical mixing tanks

## RUBBISH

- Rubbish stored nearby can contaminate your well
- Some people actually dump rubbish directly down their well – not a good idea

For further information on groundwater quality, contact the Northland Regional Council.

Your well water might be making you sick



36 Water Street, Private Bag 9021, Whangarei.  
Freephone: 0800 002 004  
Environmental Hotline: 0800 504 639  
Website: [www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz)

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