



# Toolbox Talk: Well Water Gases

## Background

Well water may contain dissolved gases, chemicals and biologicals requiring extra care. Methane, Carbon Dioxide, Hydrogen Sulfide and Nitrogen gas are common.

Methane	Nitrogen/Carbon Dioxide	Hydrogen Sulfide
Will burn or explode, vent to an outside location	Could suffocate you, make sure to vent	Smells like rotten eggs in low concentrations and can be fatal in high concentrations

**TEST:** Check to see if your well has gas by filling a glass with the water; if its milky and clears bottom to top, gases are dissolved in it.

**VENT:** Install a seal on the casing with a lead pipe leading outside.

**GAS LOCKING:** Can occur in submersed pumps for ground water. Check with the pump manufacturer for specific solutions.

**PRESSURE TANKS AND WATER HEATERS:** Should be evaluated to ensure combustible gas does not enter or be allowed to accumulate.

**CHEMICALS:** Can pollute your operation and kill your livestock. Always test before use.

**BIOLOGICALS:** Can be identified by lab testing as soon as possible.