

If you are anything like me, you grew up throwing pennies into “wishing wells” hoping for something of fortune to come to you in the time following. The wells were a symbol of hope and magic. More negative analogies are connotated with surface water sources like “down the drain” or even “when it rains, it pours.” Through further examination and research, I was led to question which water source presents more prosperous results in concerns to treatment, safety, and financial benefits.

Surface water, provided by a company like Rural Water #2, has a consistent quality and is assured to be safe through treatment with chlorine, fluoride, and the likes through a strenuous filtration system (“FAQ” 1). Mineral filtration of surface water allows for it to be less harsh on washing clothing and performing other daily needs of water. The levels of chemicals, approved by the National Safety Foundation for treatment of drinking water, are tested daily within surface water that is provided by Rural Water #2 (“FAQ” 1). Whereas even filtrated water from wells can contain more minerals than are beneficial for everyday use and is completely dependent on electricity in order to be pumped out of the ground (Osman 1). Using well water only for sustaining your family and home can be dangerous as it is unreliable and unpredictable.

While limited long-term studies exists on the effects of chemicals used during filtration of surface water supplies, well water runs a higher risk for contaminates being present. It is recommended that animal and chemical fertilizers be located outside of a 200-yard radius of the source of water, however this is difficult to maintain and guarantee (Steel 1). Other sources of



well contamination include failing septic systems, floods, waste, stormwater runoff, plant discharge, and detergents (Osman 1). On the other hand, many people attest to very positive experiences using well water, including the impact of the minerals on the skin and hair, and further on the taste quality of well water opposed to that of surface water sources by a company that has been chemically treated and, in some cases, assumed to dry out the skin and hair, as well as suffer in taste-quality. To tip the scales back, though, surface water has constant and consistent water pressure, where well water notoriously struggles to maintain pressure up to par (Steel 1).

Furthermore, the largest factor when weighing surface water against well water are the financial benefits. The start-up costs of drilling a well can be extensive and the upkeep can additionally be taxing. Minerals of well water build up in the pipelines and require consistent maintenance for major issue avoidance, recommended every two weeks to once monthly (Steel 1). While well water does allow total independence whenever it comes to water supply and usage, there are many pros to being a dependent member of a source of surface water: if something goes wrong or there is a problem with the quality of your water, you can reach out to the provided company for assistance and service, there is a consistent and updated testing system that minimizes the risk of contamination and harmful effects, and finally, all lines and meters are serviced by the company, saving you time and potentially monies. A con is that, because of this dependence on maintenance of the water source, water sourced from surface water by a company can be turned off on a whim with little notification by that company. Surface water, though, is also readily available in most places, and due to its restrictions and regulations, is often favored by mortgage companies and can result in better rates (Osman 1). Sources surface water is most common and has the highest demand means high supply and therefore low costs.



In conclusion, overall, water sourced from surface water and provided through a third-party like Rural Water #2 is more financially beneficial, reliable, and safe for all usage. It may seem like wishing well magic to rely on Rural Water #2, but there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to insure safety for consumption and cost-efficiency. Many choose to use a combination of well and surface water to their own prerogative, weighing the pros and cons according to their individual circumstances. The most important thing to remember is to prioritize safety, treatment and upkeep, as well as the financial benefits when determining the best fit for you and your family.



## Works Cited

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