

Springs

Springs are widely used in nearly all sections of West Virginia for rural water supplies. Cool, clear spring water is not always safe water. Many springs are open, improperly located and protected, allowing disease germs to enter.

Spring yields are often small. Fluctuating water level indicates water comes from a local source and is more likely to be contaminated. Springs muddy after rain should be looked upon with suspicion. Springs in limestone areas are never considered safe.

Remember, springs are always fed by water originating at a higher elevation, and the water flows through a previous stratum of ground or through seams in the rock. Proper protection of springs from contamination includes: (see sketch)

- (1) No sources of contamination on hill above spring. This includes leaching privies, non-watertight sewers, sewage disposal systems, barnyards, etc., so located so that contamination may reach the vein of water.
- (2) A watertight concrete reservoir (see sketch) or pipe extended 5 feet or more into the hillside to seal out surface water.
- (3) A concrete gutter (see sketch) or ditch on hillside above spring to divert surface water.
- (4) Regular sampling of water. Once a year, or more often, bacteriological samples should be collected to determine freedom from harmful bacteria.

