

Things Every Homeowner Should Know About Their Well



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USE CAUTION WHEN CONSTRUCTING ANYTHING NEAR YOUR WELL

State code requires certain set-back distances for items that could create health and safety threats to the consumers of the well water. Before you construct or bury anything, contact a licensed pump installer or well driller for code required separation distances.

YOUR WELL SHOULD BE PROTECTED WITH A VERMIN PROOF CAP

Older style standard-skirted caps used to meet code requirements and basically were designed to keep out rainwater, and to prevent things from falling into the well. With the invasion of Earwigs into our area, due in part to milder winters, protecting your well from insects has become even more important. A vermin proof cap can be installed on most existing wells.

AVOID COVERING OR HIDING YOUR WELL WITH FAKE ROCKS OR WISHING WELLS

Covering your well can attract and provide a haven for all kinds of insects and rodents. A standard-skirted well cap offers no protection from vermin, and even vermin proof well caps have a screened vent which allows air to be drawn into the well when the pump runs. The possibility for airborne bacteria exists when the well is enclosed in a fake rock or other enclosure.

WELL CASINGS TOO CLOSE TO THE GROUND SURFACE CAN BECOME CONTAMINATED

A well casing terminating too close to the ground surface can easily be overtopped with surface water from heavy rains or rapid spring thaws, which could contaminate your drinking water. Current code requires a well casing to terminate a minimum of 12 inches above surrounding grade. Existing wells that terminate too close to the ground surface can be extended, for your safety, by a licensed professional well driller or pump installer.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU RUN OUT OF WATER

If you are suddenly without water, first make sure you have electricity, and then check your breaker for the well. If you have power to the well, it may be a case where the water level in the well has drawn down to the level of the pump, from heavy usage. We recommend contacting a licensed well driller or pump installer who deals with well systems on a daily basis, and are well versed in the well codes. Back up generators can be a wise choice. If you are out of electricity, you are also out of water.

DO NOT LEAVE A GARDEN HOSE ATTACHED TO A HOSE BIB UNDER PRESSURE

A pressurized garden hose can cause bacteriological contamination of your water supply. As your hose lays exposed to warm sunlight, bacteria can grow and travel back through the open faucet into your plumbing for the whole house. We recommend that you turn off the outside hose faucet, whenever you finish using it, and depressurizing the hose.

~ Contact H₂O Compliance Services for all of your well inspection needs ~