

Cost Sharing

•Cost sharing assists landowners financially with the costs of conservation projects. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wood County Land Conservation Department both offer cost sharing for well abandonment projects.

•Please contact the Wood County Land Conservation Department at (715)421-8475 or go to our website at www.co.wood.wi.us to see if funding is available.

•For more information about the cost sharing offered through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources contact the Drinking Water & Groundwater Program Manager at (608) 266-8697 or go to the DNR website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/grants/wellabnd.html>.



Proper well abandonment.....

1. Restores protective barrier to minimize groundwater contamination.
2. Removes tempting openings for curious children and animals.
3. Restores stability to the land surface.
4. Eliminates or reduces liability for the landowner.
5. Protects and improves property values.

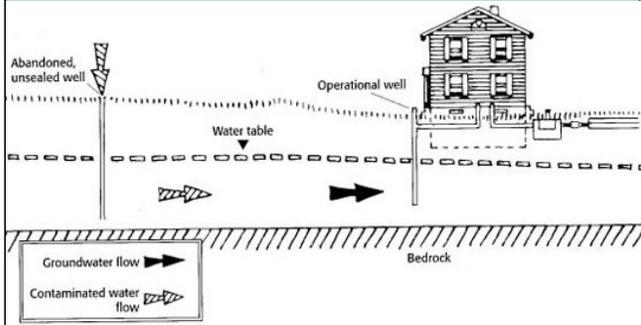
LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

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WELL CLOSURE ASSISTANCE



Normally, groundwater flows through soil and bedrock formations, known as aquifers, which filter unhealthy organisms, minerals and other substances. Water that enters an abandoned well bypasses this purifying action. Contaminants enter the aquifer through the unsealed well and may eventually harm the water quality in other wells nearby.



Many properties have unused/unsealed wells. Pollutants that enter these wells move quickly and without filtration to groundwater. Large open wells themselves can pose a safety hazard to children and animals. Abandoned wells are sealed by removing pumps, piping and debris, and filling the hole with a slurry of cement or bentonite chips, preserving healthy groundwater

Why should I properly abandon my well?

Unused water wells that are not properly abandoned leave open holes in the ground. These holes are dangerous. People (especially children), pets, and wild animals can get hurt or trapped after falling into an abandoned well. These holes serve as direct channels for contamination into Wisconsin's groundwater. They allow contamination to pass straight through to a drinking water source used by many people. Contamination, such as chemicals and bacteria, may enter the well from the surface environment. These open holes in the ground may also have been used for trash and hazardous debris. The only way to eliminate dangerous conditions and contamination of groundwater is to properly close them.



What we saw...



What was actually there.

What is the difference between a "capped" and an "abandoned" well?

A "capped" well or "capped off" well usually refers to an unused well that has a cap or plate covering the open top of the well. People sometimes install such a cap or plate mistakenly thinking that's all that's required when they stop using a well. An "abandoned" well could mean that the well was properly filled and sealed, or it could mean that the well owner just stopped using the well and did nothing to seal it up.



What to do now?

- Locate unused wells. Pipes sticking out of the ground around the farmstead and old windmills often indicate well locations. Other locations may not be as obvious. Check depressions in the ground, basements, under front steps and near old cisterns.
- Determine the type of well to be sealed. Driven sand points, drilled wells and dug wells are the three main types in Wisconsin. Wisconsin statutes require that an individual sealing a water supply well must be a licensed well driller or a licensed pump installer or an individual under their supervision.
- Wisconsin well regulations require reports of well sealing.