



County of Yolo

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Environmental Health Division

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Water Well Requirements for Building Projects

If a building project will be utilizing a water well, the well must meet certain standards before being approved by Yolo County Environmental Health (YCEH) as a water source. A general overview of these required standards is as follows:

1. Adequate annular seal (i.e. sanitary seal) must be demonstrated

- Can be verified by a Yolo County well permit.
 - If the well was originally permitted as an irrigation well, a well conversion permit will be required.
- If there is no Yolo County well permit on file, a well completion report may be able to verify the presence of an adequate annular seal.
 - Per regulation, well contractors are required to submit a Well Completion Report (WCR) to the California Department of Water Resources for filing. To request a Well Completion Report or view the public access portal, you can visit:
<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Wells>
You may also call the North Central region contact for assistance: 916-376-9610
- If an adequate annular seal cannot be demonstrated by an existing record, there will be additional requirements to approve the well as a water source.

2. Water quality analysis required

At the minimum, total coliform and nitrate must be tested and results submitted to YCEH for review. The test results shall be less than **one year old**.

- **Total coliform/*E. coli*:** The result must be absent for total coliform and *E. coli*. If total coliform or *E. coli* is found in the water, the well should be inspected and evaluated by a licensed professional familiar with well construction. Disinfection might be required to eradicate total coliform and/or *E. coli*. **Following each positive total coliform result, a clearance set consisting of two absent samples taken a minimum 24 hours apart is required.**
- **Nitrate:** Nitrate is prevalent in groundwater wells in Yolo County. If nitrate is higher than the federal maximum contaminant level at 45 mg/L nitrate-nitrate or 10 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen, a Nitrate Factsheet will be provided to the well owner and the owner must provide a signature to acknowledge receiving the factsheet.

3. Aboveground features must meet current standards

Aboveground features of the well must meet current standards. An inspection by YCEH may be required to verify that the aboveground features meet current standards. The following aboveground features will be reviewed:

- Wellhead: Secure, watertight/airtight, all openings are capped
- Well casing: Height of casing should extend above the known flood level
- Casing vent: Properly designed to prevent surface contamination of the well
- Access port for measuring water level is present
- Backflow prevention device is present
- Cement base or pad: Must extend from the well at least 2' in all directions and must be at least 4" thick

September 18, 2018

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