

# working with your well contractor

**Protect your drinking water,  
only hire licensed contractors  
to work on your well.**



## When selecting a well contractor:

- ◆ Check the online well contractor registry ([www.ogwa.ca](http://www.ogwa.ca)) to contact properly licensed contractors.
- ◆ It is important to hire locally to ensure a sound working knowledge of the hydrology and geology.
- ◆ Ask for an average expected depth and flow rate based on wells in the area, while recognizing that there is always variability.
- ◆ Ask if they will come for a site meeting to assess the needs for the job and locate any potential sources of contamination.
- ◆ Ask to see their MOE contractor and technicians licenses, confirm that they are not expired and that it is the class type required for the work being undertaken as listed below:

### Class 1: Well Drilling

Allows for the construction of drilled wells, wellhead alterations, and decommissioning of any type of well.

### Class 2: Well Digging and Boring

Allows for the construction of dug/bored wells and the decommissioning of dug/bored wells.

### Class 3: Other Well Construction

Capabilities listed on license.

### Class 4: Pump Installation

Allows for the installation of pumping equipment and wellhead alterations in any type of well

### Class 5: Monitoring, Sampling, Testing and Non-Powered Construction

*NOTE: Contractor licencing requires a business licence as well as \$2,000,000 liability and \$5,000,000 aggregate insurance.*

*Technician licensing requires 4,000 hours of work experience in the field and the successful completion of a course, as well as mandatory continuing education credits ensuring that you're working with an expert.*

- ◆ Ask for a written contract or read and understand the one your contractor provides before putting a deposit down on the job. Ask that all regulation 903 standards be met or exceeded as listed below.
- ◆ Ask for additional meetings if construction is not going as planned e.g. no water at expected depth.



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### When constructing a new well or deepening an existing well:

The regulatory requirements listed below should be met or exceeded at all times by licensed contractors. They are best practices, created to ensure the safety of your water and protection of our common groundwater.

- ◆ Locate your drilled well a minimum of 15 meters and your dug well a minimum 30 meters from potential sources of contamination. ie. any part of the septic system, fuel tanks, manure piles, etc.
- ◆ Fill the annular space with a water-tight sealant such as bentonite
- ◆ Test the yield of the well before the structural stage of the well is complete (measurement techniques are outlined in regulation 903)
- ◆ Extend the casing 40 cm above ground level with a vermin-proof cap. Ensure that a well tag is attached to your well head
- ◆ Ask for a copy of the well record within 14 days of completion of construction and testing

*NOTE: It is against Reg. 903 and a very poor environmental practice to deepen a dug well by drilling through the base of the well.*

### When installing a pump or altering an existing well:

- ◆ Disinfect the well after the structural stage of the well is completed (50-200mg/L of Chlorine for 12 hours) and test for free chlorine residual 12 -24 hours after being dosed
- ◆ Ensure that a pitless adapter is used for any below ground connections
- ◆ Ask for a copy of the well record within 14 days of any major alteration e.g. a pitless upgrade

### When abandoning and decommissioning a well:

- ◆ Remove the well tag (if present on the casing) and return to the MOE with the completed well record.
- ◆ Remove as much of the well casing as possible and all foreign materials to a minimum of 2.5 meters.
- ◆ Fill the well and annular space with a suitable sealant such as bentonite slurry up to the level of the remaining well casing.
- ◆ Fill excavation above well casing with clean local materials that match the surrounding geology.
- ◆ Ask for a copy of the water well record within 14 days of completion.

create a file containing your **well record** and **water test results.**



test in the **spring** after the snow melts and in the **summer and fall** after a rainstorm.

unmaintained wells create a **direct pathway for contaminants** to enter our common groundwater.



**1 litre of gasoline** can contaminate **1 million litres of water.**