

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Private Water Systems

According to data from the United States Geological Survey, more than 43 million people, or approximately 15% of the United States population, acquire their drinking water from private water wells. Although Cuyahoga County is predominately an urban and suburban environment, a portion of our residents still utilize private water wells for their source of drinking water.

Here are some steps you can take to help protect your private water system:

- If you have a well, it should be checked periodically for mechanical problems, cleanliness, and the presence of contaminants.
- Periodically check the well cap (including the vent) to ensure it is free of damage and is properly secured to the well casing.
- All hazardous materials, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil, should be kept far away from your private water system.
- All spigots with the capability of connecting a hose should be protected with a backflow prevention device. When mixing chemicals, do not put the hose inside the mixing container, as this can siphon chemicals into the private water system or the plumbing distribution system.
- Housing or securing domestic and farm animals around the private water system should be avoided.

Source: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/private-water-systems-program/resources-and-education/maintenance>

Wells that are no longer used as a primary source of drinking water must be properly sealed in order to protect the aquifer and reduce liability to the property owner. For information about how to properly abandon your well, please contact our office.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) recommends that homeowners have their private water systems sampled annually to ensure a safe drinking water supply within the home. CCBH offers private water sampling services. To request a private water sample or to answer any questions you might have, please contact Brittanie Evans at 216-201-2001 extension 1267 or by email at bevans@ccbh.net.

The application for a private water sample can be found on our website at <https://www.ccbh.net/private-water>.

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Well Components



Below are descriptions of the basic components found in a private water well.

Well Casing is the tube-shaped structure placed in the well to maintain the well opening from the target ground water to the surface. Along with grout, the casing keeps dirt and excess water out of the well. This helps prevent contaminants from less desirable groundwater from entering the well and mixing with the drinking water.

Well Caps are placed on top of the well casing to prevent debris, insects, or small animals from getting into the well. Well caps are usually made of aluminum or plastic. They include a vent to control pressure during well pumping.

Well Screens are attached to the bottom of the casing to prevent too much sediment from entering the well. The most common well screens are continuous slot, slotted pipe, and perforated pipe.

Pitless Adapter is a connector that allows the pipe carrying water to the surface to remain below the frost line. It ensures that a sanitary and frost-proof seal is maintained.

Submersible Pumps are the most commonly used pumps for deep private wells. The pumping unit is placed inside the well casing and connected to a power source on the surface.