

When is it necessary to plug my well?

You must have your well plugged when it is abandoned. A well is considered abandoned when it has not been used for 6 months or more or is in such disrepair that further use is considered impractical. You must also plug your well if it is a threat to groundwater or is considered a health or safety hazard.

If the well is going to be taken out of service temporarily, it needs to be brought up above the ground and covered with a secured, vented cap to prevent contamination.

Why is it necessary to plug my well?

An abandoned well left unplugged is likely to leak contaminants into the groundwater that we all drink. It is also a safety hazard to small children and animals. If the well is big enough or if the well pit has a deteriorating lid, children or even adults could fall in causing injury or death.

About the Bryan Water Department:

Bryan has always been famous for its water. In fact, there were once so many flowing artesian wells in Bryan that it became known as "Fountain City" soon after its founding in 1840.

The Bryan Water Department has provided water service to the citizens of Bryan since 1892. Today we supply an average of 1.9 million gallons of safe drinking water every day. Nearly 70 miles of underground pipe deliver water to more than 3,800 homes and businesses.

Bryan Water Department
841 E. Edgerton Street
Bryan, OH 43506

419-633-6100
water@cityofbryan.com



Abandoning Water Wells

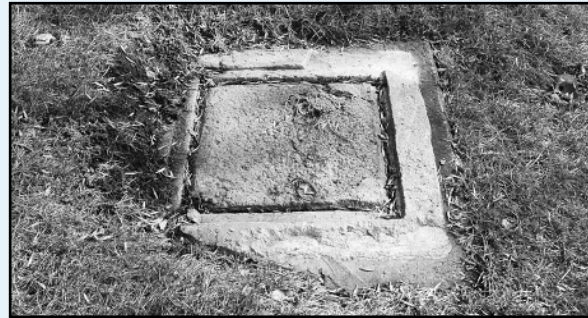


How do I go about plugging my well?

Legally, the only people who can plug a well are the landowner and a certified well drilling contractor. However, it is not recommended that people who are inexperienced attempt to plug their own wells. It is a long and difficult process; it is best to leave it to a professional. Before a well is sealed, the local health department must be notified and a well sealing report must be submitted to either the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, or the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, depending on your location.



How do I find an abandoned well on my property?



If you have recently moved, it is possible that your new property may have an old well that has not been properly sealed. If you come across a pipe sticking above the ground, a cement well pit in your yard, or an old hand pump, it is likely that there is an old well on your land. If you don't discover any obvious signs of an abandoned well, you may contact a local contractor or the local health department for documents that may help you locate wells on your property. Senior citizens or neighbors may also be very helpful in locating an old well.

Where does our water come from?

The areas outlined in the map below draw water from the MICHINDOH Glacial Aquifer. Public and private water systems in this area all depend on the same aquifer system for drinking water and there are no economically feasible alternatives. That is why it is so important to preserve our groundwater and why properly plugging water wells is so necessary.

