

The Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium, Environmental Health Water Well & Onsite Wastewater Subcommittee is comprised of staff from local health departments in the northern Illinois region. (Listing of current health department members can be found at <http://niphc.org/directory>.) The subcommittee was established to provide a forum for members of local health departments to compare, evaluate and provide for potential region-wide consistency in potable water and private sewage program activities.

Common setback distances

Common setbacks to septic tank

Property dwelling – 5'
 Property line – 5'
 Water supply line under pressure – 10'
 In-ground swimming pool – 25'
 Above ground swimming pool – 5'
 Water well - 50'

Common setbacks to septic field

Property dwelling – 10'
 Property line – 5'
 Water supply line under pressure – 25'
 In-ground swimming pool – 25'
 Above ground swimming pool - 5'
 Artificial drain – 10'
 Water well - 75'

Common setbacks to water wells

Clear water footing drains – 10'
 Pits, crawl spaces or basements – 10'
 Lake, pond, stream, cistern – 25'
 Septic tank – 50' Septic field – 75'
 Barnyard, animal confinement – 50'
 Manure piles – 75'
 Closed loop wells – 200'
 Closed loop wells, private well only where the owner of both the well and close loop system is the same – 75'
 Relation to building – center line of well to clear any projection from the building by no less than - 2'

Check with your local county health department for additional requirements.

Please visit the following websites for additional information

Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium's Homeowners Guide to Water Wells

niphc.org/uploads/NIPHC_well_owners_handbook.PDF

Illinois Department of Public Health

The Private Well Class
privatewellclass.org

EPA accredited laboratories
epa.illinois.gov/topics/drinking-water/private-well-users/accredited-labs/index

National Ground Water Association (NGWA)
ngwa.org/Pages/default.aspx

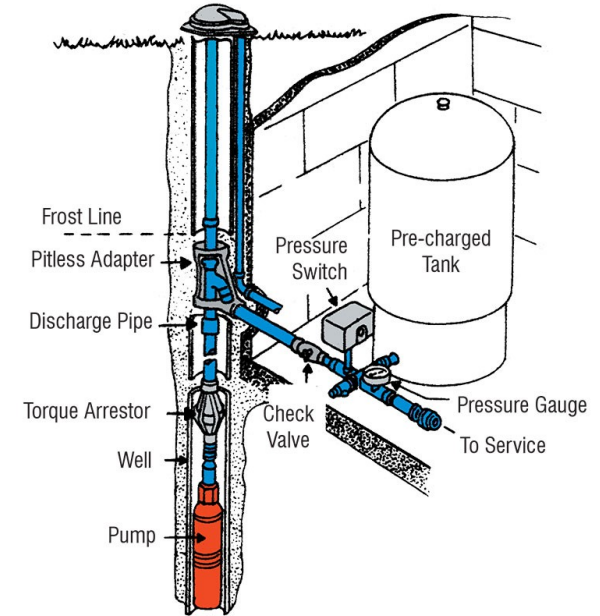
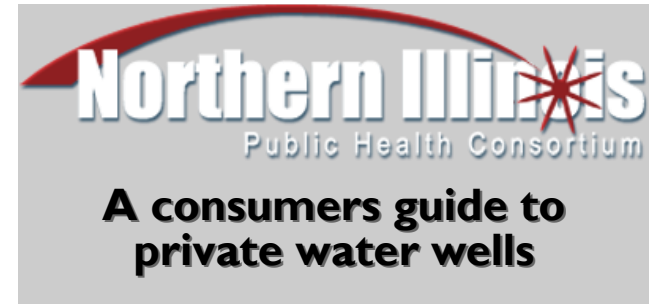
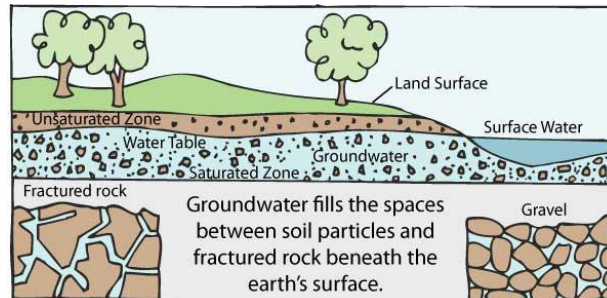
NGWA's Well Owner website
wellowner.org

The Groundwater Foundation
groundwater.org

EPA WaterSense Program
www3.epa.gov/watersense

Water Quality Association (WQA)
wqa.org/

**Illinois State Water Survey
 Public Service Laboratory**
sws.uiuc.edu/chem/psl/



As the owner of a private water well, you own and operate your own private water system. Private water systems are not regulated like a municipal community water supply that may serve thousands of residents. If you own a private water well, it is your responsibility to sample/test your well water to ensure that the water you consume is safe to drink.

Local health departments strongly recommend that property owners understand a bit about groundwater and the water system serving their home. There are different types of water supplies and different types of water wells. This brochure provides some basic information on the most common type of private water wells, drilled private water wells.

Did you know?

The National Groundwater Association has a private well owner hotline to help household well owners find resources they need to address issues or questions on water well construction and maintenance, water quality and groundwater protection?

To call the hotline (855) H2O-WELL
www.wellowner.org

The Private Well Class is a collaborative effort between the Rural Community Assistance Partnership and the University of Illinois, through the Illinois State Water Survey and the Illinois Water Resources Center and it is funded by the US EPA. The Private Well Class is an online educational resource for private well owners. Learn more about private wells by visiting:

www.privatewellclass.org

Local health departments review and issue permits and inspect both private water wells and onsite wastewater treatment systems. Local health departments also maintain permit records for these systems. Contact your local health department with questions about your specific onsite system.



Do...

- Use licensed or certified water well drillers and pump installers when a well is constructed, a pump is installed or the system is serviced.
- An annual well maintenance check-up, including a bacterial test. Drinking water should be checked any time there is a change in taste, odor or appearance or when the system is serviced.
- Keep hazardous chemicals, such as fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well.
- Periodically check the well cap on top of the casing to ensure it is tight fitting.
- Always maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems or chemical storage areas.
- Don't allow back-siphonage. When mixing pesticides, fertilizers or other chemicals, don't put the hose inside the tank or container.
- Repair damage to the well cap made by lawn equipment immediately. Any openings in the visible portion of the well cap could introduce contaminants.
- Keep your well records in a safe place. Contact your local county health department for copies of permit records and/or water well construction reports.

Don't...

- Assume your water is safe to drink without testing.
- Bury the visible portions of your water well.
- Ignore signs visible damage (i.e., cracks in the well cap or loose wiring conduit) to the well cap.
- Disinfect or chlorinate the well on a routine basis without testing the water. Chlorine can be corrosive to components in the well.
- Allow unused water wells to exist on your property.

(Source, NGWA)

Groundwater

Groundwater is one of our most valuable resources—even though you probably never see it or even realize it is there. Most of the void spaces in the rocks below the water table are filled with water. But rocks have different porosity and permeability characteristics, which means that water does not move around the same way in all rocks below ground.

The water levels in aquifers can fluctuate. Groundwater levels first are dependent on recharge from infiltration of precipitation so when a drought hits the land surface it can impact the water levels below ground, too. Likewise, many aquifers, especially those which don't have abundant recharge, are affected by the amount of water being pumped out of local wells.

Groundwater provides drinking water for more than 97 percent of the rural population who do not get their water delivered to them from a county/city water department or a private water company.

Groundwater decline is a real and serious problem in many places of the Nation and the world. When rainfall is less than normal for several weeks, months, or years, the flow of streams and rivers declines, water levels in lakes and reservoirs fall, and the depth to water in wells increases. If dry weather persists and water-supply problems develop, the dry period can become a drought.

(Source, USGS)

