

Do You Have An Abandoned Well:

- A well or cistern that is no longer used for clean water supply or storage.
- Drilled, hand dug wells and cisterns are a safety threat to people or animals.
- The groundwater can become polluted by surface water runoff from oil or fuel leaking from vehicles and equipment, fertilizers and pesticides or animal waste.
- The water in your new well can become contaminated if the old well is not plugged.



Abandoned wells are pathways for contamination of the groundwater.

Purposes and Benefits of Plugging an Abandoned Well:

- Keeps animals and debris out of the well.
- No longer dangerous as an open hole to people, animals, and farm machinery.
- Prevents contaminated surface water from entering the well and contaminating the groundwater.
- Protects other wells in the area from contamination.
- Eliminates the chance of well being used for any other purpose.
- Protects the ground water and aquifers from further pollution.

Well Plugging

Well plugging or decommissioning seals and permanently closes a water well that is no longer in use.



Abandoned cisterns or hand dug wells pose a danger to children and animals.

How To Plug a Well

1. Contact the appropriate state agency for their well plugging requirements.
2. Measure the well to estimate how much material is needed to fill the well and to document the current condition of the well.
3. Clear the well of all equipment such as pumps, valves, pipe, casing, liners, screens, grease, oil, and debris.
4. Disinfect the well with bleach.
5. Remove at least 3 feet of the casing or side wall.
6. Fill the well with fill materials such as cement slurry, bentonite, or clay soil.
7. Record the well plugging with the appropriate state agency.

Costs Associated With Well Plugging:

The cost to apply this practice will depend on the size and depth of the well. The major costs are for:

- Equipment, well casing and debris removal
- Fill Materials
- Equipment and labor costs of well driller

SMALL SCALE SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR FARM

Technical Help Is Available

Your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can assist you with an ag chemical handling facility. They can also help you develop a Conservation Plan to solve other problems you have identified on your farm.

There is no charge for our assistance. Simply call your local office at the number listed below to set up an appointment and we will come to your farm.

You may also be eligible to receive financial assistance, through a state or federal program. Your NRCS office will explain any programs that are available so you can make the best decision for your operation. All NRCS programs and services are voluntary.



Helping People Help the Land

For More Information Contact the:

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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