

## What Responsibility Does the Driller Accept if the Well Is “Dry” or Doesn’t Yield Enough?

Discuss what responsibility the well driller will accept in the event of a dry well. Some drillers will agree to drill another well in a different location at half price. Ask the driller to put in writing what responsibility he will assume. Any abandoned boreholes must also be properly grouted to protect the groundwater and your new well located some distance away.

## And Finally...

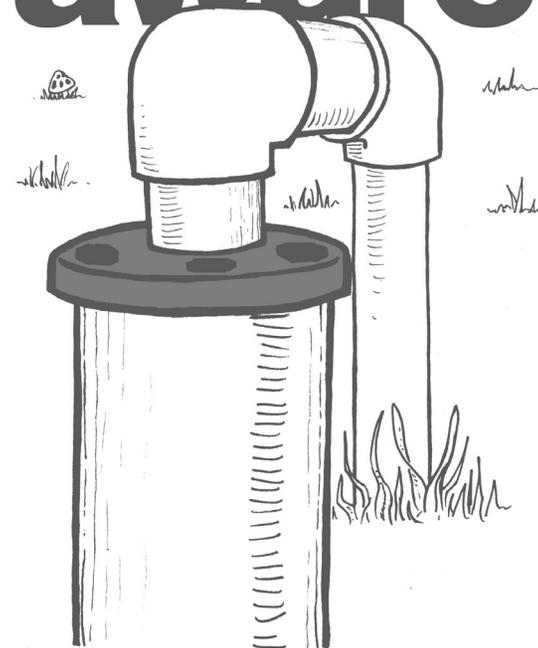
Get a copy of the water-well record form (plus your pump warranty) and keep with your household records. The well driller must send a copy of the well record to DHEC. These records are very useful in solving any future problems.

## Need Assistance?

For construction questions or questions about water quality (taste, staining, bacteria) contact DHEC’s Private Wells section at 1-888-761-5989 or visit [www.scdhec.gov/wellwater](http://www.scdhec.gov/wellwater).



# We be Well aware



PROMOTE PROTECT PROSPER  
South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control

[www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

*We promote and protect the health  
of the public and the environment.*

You don't want to buy a "lemon" of a well, but might get one if you are not careful. Having a private well installed is just like making any other purchase for your home. You must make sure you get what you pay for. Your health may depend on it.

## What Is My First Step?

Usually the first step is finding a well driller. State law requires that all water wells be constructed in a certain way. The law also requires that all well drillers be certified or licensed to do the work. Call the S.C. Environmental Certification Board at (803) 896-4430 for names of licensed well drillers in your area, or visit [www.llr.state.sc.us](http://www.llr.state.sc.us).

You can also start by obtaining a permit (Notice of Intent - DHEC Form 3647) from any S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control office or from the DHEC Website: [www.scdhec.gov/wellwater](http://www.scdhec.gov/wellwater). Follow the instructions on the form and send it in to DHEC in Columbia.

## Is A Written Contract Necessary?

To protect yourself, you should definitely have a written contract. The following should be specified in the contract:

- Cost per foot for drilling
- Number of feet of grout (at least 20 feet is required)
- Description of the pump, its horsepower and a copy of the manufacturer's warranty
- A commercial sanitary seal will be used to cap the well
- The water will be free of sand, mud and harmful bacteria after the driller leaves the site (A bacteria sample should

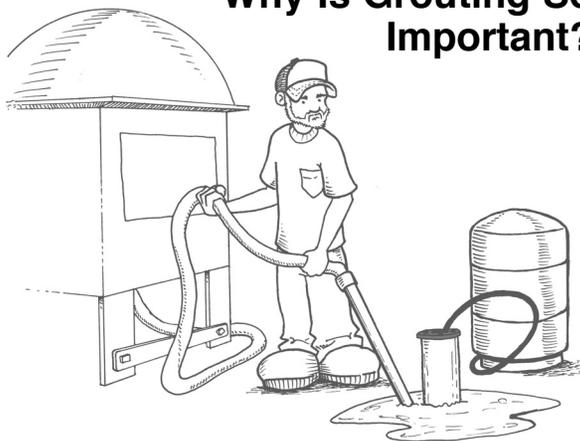
be collected to assure that the well was properly disinfected.)

- The pump used by the driller to pump sand and mud out of the well is not the same one installed for your use

## How Do I Find The Right Location For My Well?

Be sure the well is located away from sources of contamination, such as a septic tank and drainfield, animal pens, heating oil tanks and the garden. The private well must be located at least 50 feet from any potential contamination source and 5 feet from buildings and property lines.

## Why Is Grouting So Important?



Properly installed grout is one of the most important protective features of your well. It ensures that contaminants from the surface do not seep down into the water you will drink. Grout is made of cement or bentonite.

Watch while your well is being constructed. The driller should pump a wet grout mixture through a pipe that is lowered down the borehole to the bottom of the zone to be

grouted. The pipe is raised slowly as the grout is pumped, sealing the well.

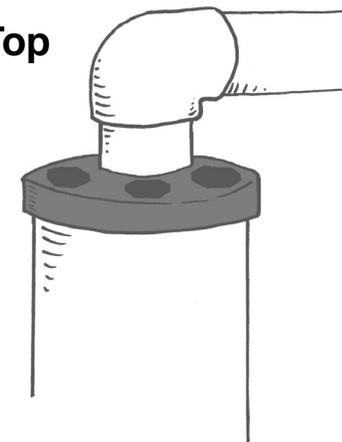
This procedure can be time consuming and some drillers might avoid it to save themselves time and money. Ask your well driller how many feet of grout will be installed. Show the driller that you are an informed consumer. Don't be pressured and then have to drink from a second-rate well.

## Is A Deeper Well A Safer Well?

Generally, a deeper well is a safer well if it is constructed properly. This is because a shallow well is more likely to be contaminated from the surface by such things as garden fertilizers, other chemicals, septic tanks and drain lines. Wells less than 50 to 75 feet deep have more chance for contamination.

## How Is The Top Of The Well Sealed?

Make sure you get a commercially manufactured sanitary seal or well cap. Water pipes and electrical connections passing through



the top of the well must be properly sealed to keep out rainwater and other surface contaminants. Make sure the vent or breather hole in the seal is screened to prevent insects from entering. A sampling spigot should be installed at the wellhead.

