

Top Ten Reasons to Seal Abandoned Wells

1. GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

Wells are direct routes for pollutants to reach the aquifer, bypassing the filtering effects of soil.

2. SAFETY

People, especially children, and animals can easily fall into abandoned wells.

3. WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION

Abandoned or improperly sealed wells are not allowed within 400 feet of a vulnerable community well, nor within 200 feet of any other water well.

4. CROPLAND USE

Labels restrict the use of certain pesticides within 50 feet of any well.

5. PEACE OF MIND

Properly sealed and documented wells pose NO concerns regarding safety, liability, or contamination. The well sealing report is a state record, and will be permanently filed with the original well report, if available.

6. DECREASED LIABILITY

The landowner is responsible if an accident or contamination should occur. Groundwater contamination is probably not covered by your property owners insurance. Ask your insurance agent for details.

7. AESTHETIC VALUE

Although many people create decorative wishing wells, abandoned wells are not a pretty sight. Old pumps and windmills may have antique value, but the wells underneath them can be very hazardous liabilities.

8. RESTORE THE ENVIRONMENT

Seal a well and heal the earth. By sealing abandoned wells, you restore soil materials as natural groundwater filters.

9. RESPONSIBLE TRANSFER OF LAND

Wells should be sealed before selling to protect new owners from unknown consequences. Buyers should beware of all wells and have drinking water thoroughly tested. Ask your realtor.

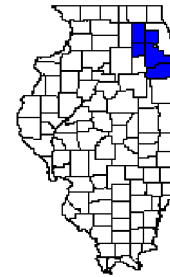
10. IT'S THE LAW!!

Northeastern Illinois Regional Groundwater Protection Planning Committee

c/o Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District
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Yorkville, IL 60560
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Private Water Well Sealing Materials Program

Northeastern
Illinois
Regional
Groundwater
Protection
Planning
Committee



Water Well Sealing Materials Program

The Northeastern Illinois Regional Groundwater Protection Planning Committee is dedicated to protecting the region's groundwater resources.

Recognizing the public benefits of protecting groundwater and sealing abandoned wells, the committee created this limited-time incentive program.

For residential landowners who have consulted their county health department and wish to seal their own wells, the committee will provide low cost materials. Bentonite clay chips in fifty-pound bags are available at a discounted price.

Water wells must be sealed in accordance with the Illinois Water Well Construction Code and a report filed with the county health department. Contact your county health department for assistance with the requirements, procedures, materials, and reports.

More resources can be found at:

Illinois Association of Groundwater Professionals
well owners guide, well sealing, toll free hotline
www.iagp.org

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
abandoned well information
dnr.state.il.us/orep/inrin/eq/well/trial.htm

Illinois Department of Agriculture
Illinois Water Well Abandonment Program
www.agr.state.il.us/Environment/LandWater/index.html

What is an Abandoned Well?

The legal Illinois definition is in the Water Well Construction Code:

“ABANDONED WELL means a water or monitoring well which is no longer used to supply water, or which is in such a state of disrepair that the well or boring has the potential for transmitting contaminants into an aquifer or otherwise threatens the public health or safety.”

County health officials and licensed water well contractors are trained to apply this definition to a very wide range of “holes in the ground” and to help residents identify needed actions. So, if you do not know what the pipe or hole in the ground represents, call your local health department for help.

No one knows exactly how many abandoned wells there are in Illinois, but experts estimate the number is in the hundreds of thousands.



County Health Departments

DuPage County Health Department

Barbara Capocy
1111 W. Lake Street
Addison, IL 60101
630.682.7979 ext. 4623
www.dupagehealth.org

Kane County Health Department

Fred Carlson
1240 N. Highland Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506
630.208.3803
www.kanehealth.com

Kendall County Health Department

Amy Serby
811 W. John St.
Yorkville, IL 60560
630.553.9100
www.co.kendall.il.us

Will County Health Department

Brian Scanlon
501 Ella Ave.
Joliet, IL 60433
815.727.8671
www.willcountyhealth.org

Kankakee County Health Department

Keith Wojnowski
2390 W. Station St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
815.937.7860
www.kankakeehealth.org

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