

How to Properly Maintain Your Private Water Well

Once disinfected, properly protected and constructed water wells should yield bacteriologically safe drinking water until the well is opened.

Recontamination may be prevented if the following measures are taken:

- 1.** In order to protect the well from surface water, grade around the well to divert surface water away from the well.
- 2.** Oklahoma Water Resources board rules, OAC 785:35, require the following separations between the well and pollution sources, such as septic systems and ponds.
 - a.** 100-foot separation from all up-slope pollution sources.
 - b.** 50-foot separation from down-slope pollution sources.
 - c.** 75-foot separation from same-elevation pollution sources.
- 3.** Maintain at least a 50-foot separation between the well and all buildings (which may be termite treated).
- 4.** The well should be cased to at least 10 feet below ground level.
- 5.** The casing should extend at least 12 inches above ground level.
- 6.** The upper terminal of the well casing should be capped with a commercial, sanitary well seal or equivalent. Old deteriorated seals may no longer be effective and should be replaced. Electrical cables passing through the seal should be caulked to prevent airborne contamination.
- 7.** Any necessary vents in the well seal should be turned down and screened.
- 8.** Any time you remove the well seal, you should disinfect your water well in accordance with the DEQ fact sheet “Disinfection of Individual Water Wells.”

If you have questions, you may contact the local DEQ office serving your area or DEQ’s Environmental Complaints and Local Services at (405) 702-6100. Local offices can be found at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/deq-local-offices/>.

