

Bucks County Department of Health
Division of Environmental Health
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Policy and Procedures to Construct / Modify a Well

The Bucks County Department of Health (BCDH) has established procedures and standards for the location, construction/modification and abandonment of residential wells, and water quality sampling as set fourth in the BCDH Rules and Regulations Governing all Wells, and their Construction Specifications. Well casing reconstruction, pitless installations, deepening a well or hydro fracturing are considered well modifications.

BCDH does not regulate construction for other type wells, such as test wells, monitoring wells, irrigation wells, and geothermal wells, exc. However, for these type wells, only those which were constructed following this application procedure may be converted to individual water supply wells.

Well Owner instructions:

- a. An application to construct/modify a well on form BCDH SA-130 and the current fee is required prior to be submitted prior to commencement of construction of any residential well which will provide drinking water.
- b. It shall be unlawful to install a new well or modify an existing well without a valid completed well water permit.
- c. The application to construct must be filed and signed by the current property owner or equitable owner. The well application must be in the same name as the current owner of a valid on-lot sewage disposal application (Act 537) for the property if applicable.
- d. This Department will field verify all features on plot plans and well locations. The well location must be marked with an appropriate visual stake marked for the well location. If it is not visual and a second field stop is necessary a fee will be charged (see current fee schedule).
- e. The application shall be approved or denied within (7) seven working days of receipt of an administratively complete application and fee. BCDH shall notify applicants if the application is determined to be incomplete or contains information that cannot be verified. Upon receipt of the supplemental information, BCDH has an additional (7) seven days to approve or deny the application.
- f. Municipal well permits do not supersede the requirement to obtain a valid BCDH well permit along with all supporting data and the appropriate fee. Check with the municipality in which the well will be located to determine if there is a separate ordinance governing the activity
- g. All sewage system component locations within 125 ft. of the proposed well on said property and all neighboring properties must be clearly staked prior to approval of the well construction permit and commencement of well drilling.
- h. Verification of property lines is the responsibility of the property owner. It is recommended that the property owner have a qualified professional certify all isolation distances.
- i. Any relocation of the proposed well site from the permitted location must be submitted in writing and approved by BCDH.
- j. An application is neither a contract for, nor a guarantee of satisfactory water quantity or quality. An application is not a final approval to use the well, nor is it a guarantee that final approval will be granted.
- k. The BCDH must receive at least forty- eight (48) hours notice prior to drilling the well for an on site inspection.
- l. If well construction is not completed within (3) three years of the application approval date, the approval to construct shall expire.

Construction Specifications

Well Location:

- a. For the proposed well, minimum isolation distances shall be maintained from the designated facilities and potential pollution sources listed below.
- b. Any proposed deviation from the isolation distances in the referenced section, must be submitted in writing to the Department for review.

Individual Residential Water-Supply Isolation Distance (in feet)

a. Delineated wetlands or 100 –year floodplain.	25
b. Storm drains, retention basins, storm water stabilization ponds, and rain water pits.	25
c. Community spray irrigation sites, sewage sludge and septic disposal sites.	100*
d. Lakes, ponds, streams or other surface waters.	50*
e. Farm silos, barn yards, manure pits, tanks or other storage areas of animal manure.	200*
f. Subsurface sewage absorption areas, elevated sand mounds, cesspools, sewage seepage pits, single family spray irrigation system, ext.	100*
g. Septic tanks, aerobic tanks, sewage pump tanks, holding tanks.	50*
h. Gravity sewer lines and drains carrying domestic sewage or industrial waste	50
i. Gravity sewage lines and drains using cast iron pipe with watertight lead caulked or neoprene gasketed joints, or Schedule 40 polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipes with solvent welded joints.	10
j. Sewer lines and drains carrying domestic sewage or industrial waste under pressure (except welded steel pipe or concrete encased pipe).	50*
k. Commercial preparation area or storage area of hazardous spray materials, fertilizers or chemicals; salt piles.	300*
l. Drip irrigation zones.	102*
m. Building foundations, mobile homes, driveways, property lines, right aways and swimming pools	10

Note: Closed loop Geothermal Systems, shall meet one half the isolation distances noted with an*

Plot Plans

- a. Must be submitted on 8 ½" x 11" or larger paper using the whole page @ 1" = 50' or more
- b. Must also include all of the following information:
 - Property lines, adjacent streets, lot dimensions, reference to north, direction of slope, delineation of floodplain (where applicable)

The following is an example of a plot plan required with the Application to Construct/modify an individual residential well.

