

Safe Well Water RI

Trusted, expert information

Tip Sheet 26



“Tip sheets helped us learn about our well water.”

Get Tip Sheets at www.rivelltesting.org:

- 14 Tip Sheets about harmful substances
- 10 Tip Sheets about treatment choices
- 3 Tip Sheets about other topics of concern

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Look for the NSF seal on water treatment devices.

NSF International is a non-profit group that sets performance standards for water treatment devices. Learn about NSF here: www.nsf.org

Hiring a Private Well Driller or Pump Installer

Shop carefully. Hire only registered well professionals.

When you need a well drilled or a pump installed, be a smart consumer. Hire only well drillers and pump installers registered with the Rhode Island Contractors Board. Find a list here: www.rivelltesting.org

Registered contractors:

- Have passed a national exam
- Are certified by the National Water Well Association

Ask for references and contact them.

Ask the well water contractor to give you references from 5 or more well projects done in the past 3 years. Contact those references and ask about the quality of the service and the results.

Ask for a written contract and make sure it includes key items.

A written contract should state:

- The contractor’s business address and state license/registration information
- Work to be done and type of equipment to be installed
- Expected start and finish dates
- Site clean-up details and who does it
- Guarantees on the contractor’s well work and warranties on equipment installed
- Payment amounts and terms, including a schedule. You may see these kinds of costs listed:
 - ▶ Drilling (per foot)
 - ▶ Well casing (per foot)
 - ▶ Other materials and operations
 - ▶ Deeper drilling, if needed
 - ▶ Abandonment (sometimes necessary if the first well drilled does not produce enough water)



The well project doesn't end when water spurts out.

The contractor should:

- Disinfect the well and the household plumbing — also called bleaching or shocking the well. The well water should be re-tested and free of bacteria (germs). See Tip Sheet 19.
- Test the water. Be sure water is sent to a State-certified testing lab. Find a list here: www.health.ri.gov/find/labs/privatewelltesting

You should:

- Get a *well completion report*, commonly called a *well log*. Contractors must send this report to the Rhode Island Department of Health.
- Make sure the *well cap* is on tightly and that the *well casing* is at least 18 inches above the ground surface.
- Buy a folder or large, strong envelope to hold all the information about your well, including:
 - ▶ The well completion report
 - ▶ The contractor's contact information
 - ▶ Water test reports

We're here to help with your well water questions.

Talk with a water quality expert or find easy to read Tip Sheets.

- » University of Rhode Island Water Quality Program
Direct line to water expert: 401-874-5398
www.riwelltesting.org
- » Rhode Island Department of Health
Ask for the Private Well Program: 401-222-5960
www.health.ri.gov/drinkingwaterquality/for/privatewellowners