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.riwelltesting.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)

Get Tip Sheets at www.riwelltesting.org:
- 14 Tip Sheets about harmful substances
- 10 Tip Sheets about treatment choices
- 3 Tip Sheets about other topics of concern

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

Call us! University of Rhode Island Water Quality Program (401) 874-5398
Rhode Island Department of Health (401) 222-6867
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/drinkingwater

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: 401-874-5398
  www.riwelltesting.org

» Rhode Island Department of Health: 401-222-6867
  http://health.ri.gov/programs/
  From list, choose Private Well Program