



Water Supply Requirements for Building Permits

~ *New dwellings and places open to the public* ~

If you are applying for a building permit for a use that needs a potable water supply, such as a new dwelling (and certain replacement dwellings¹) or a facility open to the public, your water supply will need to meet the applicable standards within BCC 99.800 - 99.845, summarized below.

These standards were adopted to help ensure a safe and reliable supply of water for all users of groundwater, now and into the future.

You must submit all of these with your building permit application:

- Water Information Acknowledgment.** ¹
- Map** showing property lines, buildings, and well(s).
- Well log.** ² (Oregon Water Resources Dept. "oregon.gov/OWRD/"). Then "Find a Well Report.")
- Water quality test** for **coliform** bacteria and **nitrates**, performed within the past 12 months.³
- Pump test (including "Recovery Worksheet"³ and both pages of "Pump Test Submittal Form"⁴ – your professional should not substitute their own forms).**
 - Performed within the past 12 months by an Oregon licensed well driller, pump installer, geologist, or professional engineer.
 - **Use the County's "Pump Test Submittal Form"⁴** and review the completed example⁴.
 - In the proposed production well:
 - *Prior* to pumping – **record** the static water level.
 - While the sustained yield pumping rate is being determined, it is likely the water level within the well will be reduced. **For at least 4 hours, pump at a rate that does not reduce the water level within the well** (this is called "sustained yield"). **Record** this rate and the water level at half-hour intervals. Using the table on page 2, this determines if the well is adequate and how much storage is required.
 - *After* pumping stops, **record** the recovery of water level in the well at half-hour intervals for 4 hours or until water level rebounds to 90% of the total drawdown amount, whichever comes first. (**Use the County's "Recovery Worksheet"⁴** and review the completed example⁴.)
 - For any other existing wells on the same property:
 - *Prior* to pumping the well – **record** the static water level.
 - At half-hour intervals – **record** drawdown during the pumping of the well.
 - *After* pumping stops – **record** recovery of water level at half-hour intervals for 4 hours or until water level returns to 90% of the total drawdown amount, whichever comes first. (**Use the County's "Recovery Worksheet."⁴**) This needs to be done for only the

closest well drawing from the same aquifer.

¹ See “Water Information Acknowledgement” for details: www.co.benton.or.us/building/page/building-permit-process-application-forms

² Oregon did not require well logs before 1962. After 1996, all wells drilled, deepened, converted, or altered must have ID numbers. If there is no ID number, Oregon requires the property owner to obtain one within 30 days of purchase. If the well is registered, then there will be paperwork online.

³ Coliform must absent. Nitrates must be less than or equal to 10 mg/L.

⁴ “Recovery Worksheet,” “Pump Test Submittal Form,” and “Example”: www.co.benton.or.us/building/page/water-supply

The sustained-yield pump test determines if storage is required:

If your pump test was performed during this time period and showed a sustained yield of this many gallons per minute...		...then you are required to install this much water storage:
October 16 through July 14	July 15 through October 15	
5 gpm or more	5 gpm or more	None
<i>< 5 gpm Retesting during the dry season is necessary.*</i>	3 to 4.99 gpm	500 gallons
	2 to 2.99 gpm	1000 gallons
	1 to 1.99 gpm	1500 gallons

* An exception may be possible in certain unusual circumstances.

Notes:

- The required storage may be a combination of tank and well storage.
- A well producing less than 1 gpm is inadequate to serve as a water supply.
- Wells shared by more than one property:
 - Must produce at least 1 gallon per minute per dwelling, and each dwelling must have a storage tank.
 - Must have an associated easement. Benton County Planning may provide an acceptable well and waterline easement and maintenance agreement form.

Important: Your well location can reduce your septic drainfield and road placement options. A dwelling might not be approvable on certain areas of your property. Therefore, before drilling a well, it is wise to discuss the location with a County planner.