



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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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 (not a replacement dwelling*) 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 need to submit all of the following with your building permit application:

- Map** showing property lines, buildings, and well(s).
- Well log.** (Oregon Water Resources Dept. "oregon.gov/OWRD/". Click "Find a Well Log.")
- Water quality test** for **coliform** bacteria and **nitrates**, performed within the past 12 months.
- Pump test**
 - Performed within the past 12 months (an exception might be granted) by an Oregon licensed well driller, pump installer, geologist, engineering geologist, or professional engineer.
 - **Use the County's "Pump Test Submittal Form"** and review the completed example
 - 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 below, this will determine whether your 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"** and review the completed example.)
 - **For any other existing wells on the same property:**
 - Prior to pumping the production well – **record** the static water level.
 - At half-hour intervals – **record** drawdown during the pumping of the production 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."**) This needs to be done for only the closest well drawing from the same aquifer.

* However, a replacement dwelling using a new well must meet these standards.

The results of your sustained-yield pump test will determine whether you need to provide water storage, as follows:

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
< 5 gpm Retesting during the dry season may be necessary.	3 to 4.99 gpm	500 gallons
	2 to 2.99 gpm	1000 gallons
	1 to 1.99 gpm	1500 gallons

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 impact septic drainfield and road placement options.
- A dwelling might not be approvable on certain areas of your property.
- Therefore, before drilling a well, we suggest you discuss the location with a County planner.

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