Private Water Systems

A private water system (PWS) is defined as a water system that has fewer than 15 service connections and does not regularly serve an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least sixty days each year. If a system does not meet this definition then it is a public water system and would be under the jurisdiction of the EPA. Private water systems include water wells, springs, cisterns, hauled water tanks, and ponds. A permit is required from the health department before a private water system can be installed or altered. After a private water system is installed or altered, the Health Department will ensure the system is safe for human consumption by sampling the water for bacterial and nitrate contamination, inspect the well construction and pressure tank, and reviewing the well log and completion form. This service is also available for existing water systems. It is extremely important for property owners to work only with licensed private water system contractors. These contractors are licensed through the Ohio Department of Health and must carry a surety bond.

The Hocking County Health Department offers a variety of services in the PWS program:

- PWS permits & designs
- PWS water sampling & Presampling
- PWS approval
- Registration of Water Haulers
- PWS contamination investigations
- PWS Forms
- Private Water Completion Forms Fact Sheets
- Homeowners Guide to Constructing or Altering a Private Water System
- Nitrates/Nitrites Health Information Fact Sheet
- Nitrate Treatment
- Coliform Bacteria Fact Sheet
- Contractor Procedure for Well Disinfection
- Sealing Unused Wells-Technical Guidance
- Water Well Abandonment Guidelines
- Homeowner Procedure for Well Chlorination
- Emergency Disinfection of Drinking Water
- Disinfection Instructions for Flooded Drinking Water Wells
- Drinking Water Guide for Household Wells
- Public Water Consumer Guide
- Requirements for a Multi-Dwelling Water Well
- Continuous Disinfection for Water Systems
- Recommendations for Sampling Before Oil and Gas Drilling

- Water Sample Requirements for Rental Property Well Drillers
- Local Well Driller and Water District ListODH Private Water Systems Contractor Registration List Cisterns & Hauled Water
- Disinfecting a Cistern or Hauled Water Tank
- Hauled water application
- Maintaining Chlorine Residuals for Hauled Water Springs
- Spring Construction Helpful Links
- State Private Water Systems Rules (ODH)
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Well Log Reports
- ODH Private Water Systems General Information
- Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Ground Waters
- National Ground Water Association (NGWA) Water Well Information
- www.wellowner.org For general inquiries or questions, please contact the Hocking County Health Department Environmental Division at (740) 385-3030. Back to Environmental Health