

Well Safety: What you can do

Groundwater Management Area (GWMA):

The purpose of the GWMA is to reduce nitrate contamination concentrations in groundwater below state drinking water standards

The dangers of uncapped, abandoned or hand dug wells

Capping prevents pollution, serious injuries:

All wells must be securely capped, including those that are not in use, temporarily out of service, or not yet decommissioned, to protect the drinking water and the aquifer from contamination. Proper capping also prevents objects, animals and people from falling into the well.

Common methods of capping wells, include using:

- Manufactured well caps.
- Metal plates welded to the top of the well casing.
- A well-seal/artesian style cap for wells in vaults or located in areas where surface water ponds.

These can be found at pump and water supply stores. Securely attach the cap so that it prevents contamination and unpermitted access to the wells. *Don't use an overturned bucket or loose plate to cover the well casing.*

What to look for when searching for an abandoned well:

Landowners who don't know the history of wells on their property should look for the following when searching for abandoned wells:

- Pipes sticking out of the ground.
- Old well houses.
- Depressions.
- Concrete vaults, pits or tile.
- Metal plates, or old plywood lying on the ground or over concrete tile or vaults.

Do your part to keep groundwater safe and clean.

For more information:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wells/abandon-wells.html>

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/96br097.pdf>

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA



The purpose of the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area is to reduce nitrate contamination where concentrations do not meet drinking water standards.

GWAC Working Groups

- Data Collection, Characterization, Monitoring
- Education and Public Outreach
- Funding
- Irrigated Agriculture
- Livestock/CAFO
- Regulatory Framework
- Residential, Commercial, Industrial, and Municipal

To get involved, call
(509) 574-2300

More information at:
www.yakimacounty.us