

Drilling a New Well in Yakima County

1 Check Well or Water System Restrictions on Your Property

- Consult with Yakima County Public Services (YCPHS) to confirm if a well or water system is allowed on your property.

2 Gather Proof of Water Rights

- **To drill a well, you must provide legal evidence of a water right. This may include:**
 - A Water Right Permit from the Washington State Department of Ecology
 - A letter from an approved water purveyor confirming their ability to provide water
 - A Domestic Well Permit from Yakima County Water Resource System (YCWRS)
 - Documentation showing the well site is located outside the Yakima River watershed
 - Other evidence of a water right held for mitigation by a water bank
 - A Yakama Nation Water Code Permit (for properties within the Yakama Nation Boundary)
 - **Note:** Water use on Yakama Nation land requires review and approval through the Yakama Nation Water Code. Contact the Yakama Nation Water Code Administration for guidance on next steps.

3 Apply for a Water Availability Review

- A Water Availability Review from YCWRS is required to:
 - Review and verify submitted water rights documentation
 - Determine the minimum well depth standard for your parcel
- If you do not have an approved Water Right, you will need to apply for a YCWRS Domestic Well Permit as part of your building or land use application.

4 Get Additional Approvals for Shared or Commercial Wells

- If the well will serve a commercial use or multiple homes, contact the Yakima Health District (YHD) for site approval.
- If the well will use over 5,000 gallons/day (for commercial use or 15+ homes), apply for an additional Water Right Permit from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

5 Drill the Well

- Hire a well driller licensed by Ecology. The well driller must submit a drilling permit to Ecology prior to drilling.
- If the lot does not have power, collect nitrate and coliform bacteria water samples during drilling or pump installation.
- After the well is drilled, submit the Water Well Report to YCWRS to verify well depth.

6 Get Approval for Water Use

- For a single residence, submit an Adequate Water Determination (AWD) to YHD along with:
 - Current coliform bacteria and nitrate test results
 - Water Well Report or 4-hour Drawdown Report
- For a business or multiple homes, contact YHD to apply for Water System Approval.

7 Install a Well Meter (If obtaining a YCWRS Domestic Well Permit)

- Once your domestic well permit is approved, contact Yakima County Utilities Division to review meter setup requirements before you connect the well to the main structure. Once the well is ready for use, schedule installation of the meter and transmitter to track your permitted water use.

Yakima County Departments: (509) 574-2300 | 128 N 2nd St. Yakima WA 98901

Yakima Health District: (509) 249-6508 | 1210 Ahtanum Ridge Dr Yakima, WA 98901

Washington State Department of Ecology: (509) 575-2490 | 1250 West Alder Street Union Gap, WA 98901

