



# Connecting to an Existing Well in Yakima County

## 1 Gather Proof of Water Rights

- To connect to a well, you must provide legal evidence of a water right. This may include:
  - A letter from an approved water purveyor confirming their ability to provide water (**Note:** If using a purveyor letter, the purveyor typically completes steps 3–5)
  - A Yakama Nation Water Code Permit (for properties within 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.
  - A Domestic Well Permit from Yakima County Water Resource System (YCWRS)
  - A Water Right Permit from the Washington State Department of Ecology
  - 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

## 2 Apply for a Water Availability Review

- A Water Availability Review from YCWRS is required to
  - Review and verify submitted water rights documentation
  - Submit a copy of the Water Well Report (**Note:** If a well report is not available for the existing well, you must complete a 4-hour drawdown test and document the well depth)
- If you do not have an approved Water Right, or if it has been over 18 months since previous structures were removed, you will need to apply for a YCWRS Domestic Well Permit as part of your building application.

## 3 Additional Requirements for High-Use 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), contact the Washington State Department of Ecology for information on additional Water Right requirements.

## 4 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
- If the well will serve a business or multiple homes, contact YHD to apply for Water System Approval.

## 5 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