

**Frequently asked questions:**

**What is an abandoned water well?**

A water well is considered to be abandoned if:

- The original purpose and use of the well have been discontinued for more than five years.
- The well is in such a state of disrepair that using it to obtain ground water is impractical or a health hazard.

**When must an abandoned water well be plugged?**

A water well must be plugged within one year after it is abandoned. The IDNR, Division of water urges landowners who decide to discontinue use of their water wells to plug them immediately.

**Who is responsible for sealing or plugging an abandoned water well?**

Landowners are responsible to make certain an abandoned water well on their property is properly sealed or plugged. How the well is sealed or plugged depends on when the well was abandoned.

Information taken from the IDNR publication "Plugging and Sealing Abandoned Water Wells" brochure.



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The Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District and its partners are equal opportunity employers and providers.

**Clinton County Soil and Water  
Conservation District**

**Abandoned  
Water Well  
Decommissioning**

**Cost Share Program**

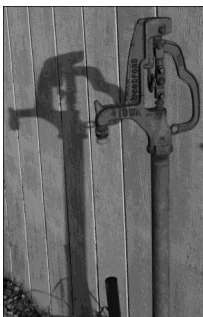


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Over the years, many water wells around old farmsteads have been left abandoned and unused. Water wells are a direct conduit between the land surface and the ground water resource. Herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, animal and human waste can enter an abandoned water well and potentially into our drinking water source (groundwater). They also can pose a safety hazard especially for children or pets.

The CCSWCD provides cost-share assistance for Clinton County landowners to properly decommission their abandoned water wells as defined in Indiana Code 312 IAC 13-10.

Applications will be accepted on a first come first served basis and based upon funds availability.



### **Application and Cost Share Guidelines**

- Applications must be made on forms provided by the CCSWCD and all necessary information will be provided or application will not be considered.
- Decommissioning of the water well may not begin until the cost-share application has been approved by the CCSWCD Board of Supervisors and applicant has been officially notified.
- Cost-share assistance is 75% if actual cost up to the maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Funds are limited and will be available on first-come first-serve basis.
- Decommissioning of water well must be completed by well driller licensed in the State of Indiana.
- Plugging and Capping (decommissioning) must be conducted in compliance with 312 IAC13-10, USDA NRCS Practice Standard 351 or Purdue Extension Service publication WQ-21.



The Indiana Department of Natural Resources states that water wells are conduits between the land surface and the ground water resource. If not sealed or plugged properly, abandoned water wells can contribute to groundwater contamination. Common surface pollutants including animal and human waste, herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers can take the path of least resistance down an abandoned water well and into an aquifer (water bearing formation). The 1988 Indiana water well drilling statute (IC25-39) requires abandoned water wells to be sealed at the surface or plugged with impervious materials.

For additional information or to obtain a list of licensed well drillers:

<http://www.IN.gov/dnr/water>

<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/menu.htm>