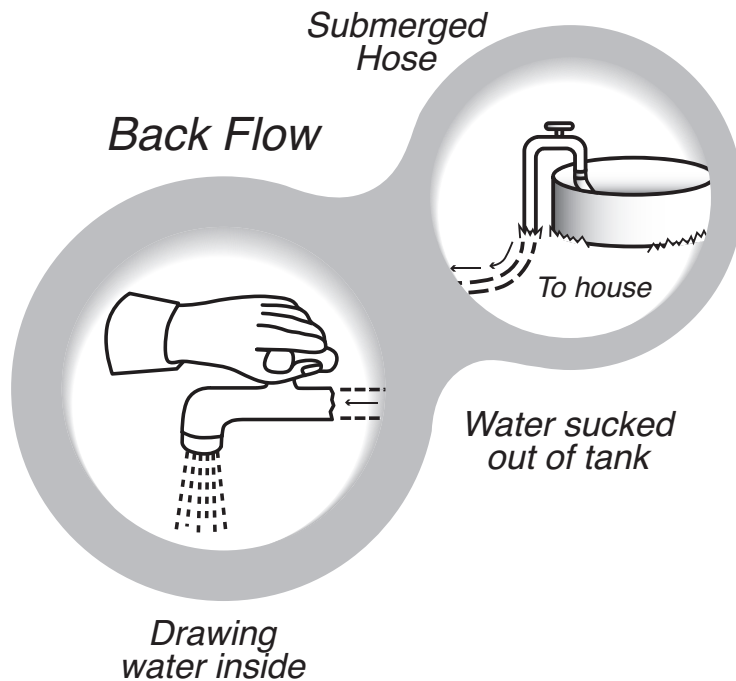


If your well gets cloudy or tastes different after a rain, or if the quality changes suddenly anytime, it could be a sign of pollution. Get your well tested as soon as possible.

Before hiring someone to drill a new well, ask friends and neighbors to recommend a driller. Only hire a driller who is permitted by the state of Missouri and make sure your well receives a state certification number. To find a driller or to check certification of your well go to www.dnr.mo.gov/mowells.

If you have an abandoned well on your property, the well needs to be plugged as required by state law to keep it from polluting your current well, or those of your neighbors.

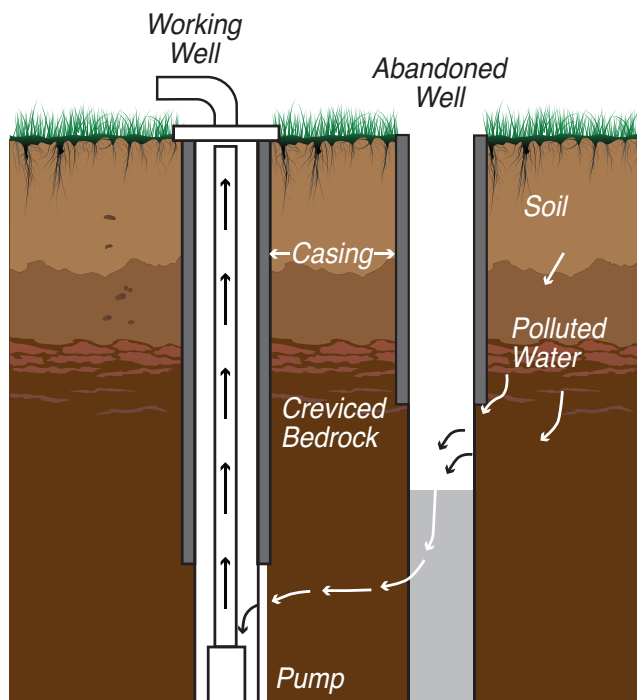
Although most people get their water from drilled wells, some homes use hand-dug wells, cisterns, or springs. These water sources are easily contaminated and require special protection measures. Call your local health department for more information.



ABANDONED WELLS [The Hidden Danger]

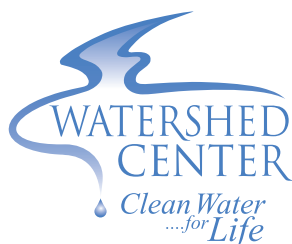
The open borehole of an abandoned well can easily allow contamination to flow into groundwater aquifers. These deep water-bearing layers of rock are our water supply. Once polluted, they are difficult, or even impossible, to clean.

Abandoned wells must be plugged by a certified well driller or pump installer and reported to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to prevent such pollution. In some cases, cost-share assistance is available to homeowners who want to plug a well on their property. Technical advice is available from **MDNR Missouri Geological Survey, 573-368-2165.**



COLIFORM bacteria are commonly found in warm-blooded animals, in soil and on vegetation. Their presence in a well may indicate that contaminated water has seeped into the well.

NITRATES are chemicals found in fertilizers, sewage and animal waste. Nitrates are especially hazardous to infants. The Public Health Service recommends that drinking water contain no coliform bacteria and 10 parts per million or less of nitrates.



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The mission of the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks is to sustain and improve the water resources of Springfield and Greene County through education and effective management of the region's watersheds.

Numerous other publications are available from the Watershed Committee at www.watershedcommittee.org