



THE DANGERS OF ABANDONED WELLS DECOMMISSIONING THEM IS LAW!

Abandoned wells (those no longer in use) pose a hidden danger to people—especially children—and animals that can easily fall into them.

An unused well also creates a public health threat, providing a direct route for pollutants to reach—and contaminate—our drinking water.

OUR ROLE

Our goal is to safeguard the health of all Kitsap families by preventing the environmental and safety hazards that unused wells pose. We provide information on decommissioning unused wells and how to secure unsafe wells. We're here to answer your questions about unused wells.



KITSAP PUBLIC
HEALTH DISTRICT

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360-728-2235
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DECOMMISSIONING WELLS

State law requires that any unused or abandoned well—or any well that threatens public health—must be properly decommissioned. The owner is responsible for having a well decommissioned by a licensed well driller.

THE PROCESS

HAND-DUG WELLS. A licensed well driller must seal the well—typically with concrete. Filling a well with garbage or dirt is illegal.

DRILLED WELLS. These require a more specialized process. To learn more, contact us at 360-728-2235.

SAFETY FIRST. Secure the top of the well to prevent a person or animal from falling into it. Then contact a well driller—or us—for assistance.

REPORTING AN UNUSED WELL

Contact the health district, where your report will remain confidential. You'll need the property owner's name, address—and tax account number if known.

WELLS FOR IRRIGATION

To keep your well for irrigating a garden, a waiver is necessary. Irrigating more than one-half acre of noncommercial lawn and garden also requires a water-right permit from the Washington State Department of Ecology. Contact us for more information.

QUESTIONS?

Call us at 360-728-2235.