

## **WELL PLUGGING can be an easy and simple fix to a compound problem.**

Not only can plugging an abandoned well get rid of a hazard, it can reduce the chances of contaminants getting into ground water. A plugged well is a safe well.

Plugging a well must be done correctly to ensure that it doesn't open back up at the surface or pose some future risk. Therefore, it is recommended that anyone planning to plug a well should get assistance to ensure that they are complying with state regulations and safety requirements.

If you need assistance in planning a well plugging or you desire more information about the plugging procedure please contact the Christian Co. Soil and Water Conservation District or NRCS representative. Programs could possibly exist to assist you with the financial cost of plugging a well.

### **The processes outlined in this brochure are general guidance on how common wells are plugged.**

It is not intended to be a complete explanation of the process. Detailed information and statutes are available from MoDNR division of Geology and Land Survey.

The Finley River 319 Project, Christian Co. Soil & Water Conservation District, & NRCS are all located at the following address:

1786 S 16th. Ave.  
Ozark, MO 65721

Call or Email  
Phone: 417-581-2719 ext 3  
Fax: 417-485-3863  
E-mail: [justin.jenkins@swcd.mo.gov](mailto:justin.jenkins@swcd.mo.gov)

### **Remember:**

*Plug a well, improve the environment, and ensure a safer place for everyone.*

*Contact us for no-cost assistance in planning and cost share financial assistance possibilities.*

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# **WELL! WELL! WELL!**



## **WHAT DO YOU DO WITH AN ABANDONED WELL??**

### **YOU PLUG IT!! YOU PLUG IT!! YOU PLUG IT!!**

### **Read on and learn more about plugging hand-dug and drilled wells!!**

Christian Co. Soil and Water Conservation District



**NRCS** Natural Resources Conservation Service

## WELLS- 2 TYPES



Hand-dug Well

Drilled Well  
(steel casing is cut off)

Other classifications may exist, but normally water wells are either in the hand-dug or drilled categories. The old hand dug type usually has some sort of rock liner and is much shallower than the drilled version. They may have water in them, running through them, or be dry due to being above the static water line. The drilled well is usually cased with some sort of pipe to a specified depth and can be several hundred feet deep. They usually have water in them at some point along their depth.

### Why Plug An Abandoned Well?

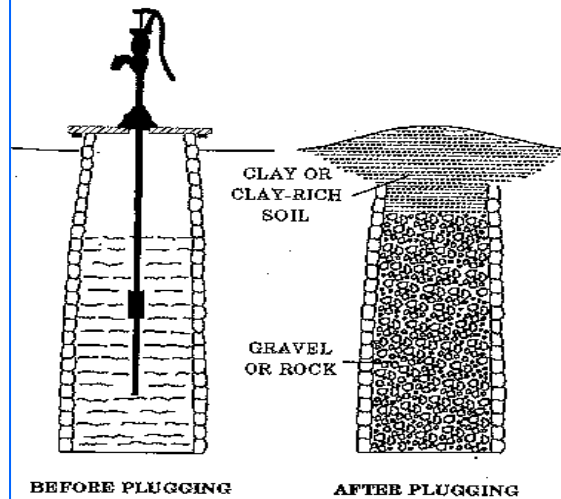
Both types can be dangerous to human and animal alike if left open and accessible. They can also be a direct route to underground water sources. If left exposed at the surface, they allow surface water to carry contaminants underground and adversely affect water quality.

With homes and property changing hands so often in today's world, it would be easy for a well to be forgotten. A landowner may not realize that an abandoned well exists on a property until its too late.

For these reasons, properly plugging an abandoned well is the only way to ensure a safe environment.

**Remember:** Contact Missouri Department of Natural Resources for appropriate guidance if you are plugging a well without NRCS or SWCD planning assistance.

## Hand-Dug Well



### Plugging a hand dug well.

Plugging a hand-dug well is a relatively simple process. Here are the steps:

- Step 1: Remove all debris from the well. Things like pumps, wiring, pipes, surface covering, etc.
- Step 2: Add required amount of chlorine bleach if plan specifications require it. If no water exists, disinfect fill material before placing it into well
- Step 3: Push in top 3 ft of rock liner.
- Step 4: Add clean fill material to within 3ft of ground level.
- Step 5: Fill remaining 3ft with clay or clay rich soil. Be sure to mound soil 1ft above ground level.
- Step 6: Seed and mulch bare soil to prevent erosion.
- Step 7: Fill out and mail Well Decommissioning Report Form to Missouri DNR

## Drilled Well With Casing

**Plugging a drilled well is similar to a hand dug well with some exceptions.**

- Step 1: Remove debris.
- Step 2: Dig hole around casing  
(3ft deep x 2 ft wide)
- Step 3: Cut off exposed casing
- Step 4: Fill in with clean fill to 50ft below bottom of casing.
- Step 5: Disinfect with required amount of bleach.
- Step 6: Fill in remaining 50ft with neat cement or bentonite clay chips ensuring that fill extends 1ft into excavated area above casing.
- Step 7: Fill in remaining area with topsoil.
- Step 8: Seed and mulch bare soil.
- Step 9: Fill out and mail Well Decommissioning Report Form to Missouri DNR.

(These are general overviews, and several different methods exist depending on the type of drilled well to be plugged. For more detailed instructions review the Missouri Well Construction Rules-Section 10 CSR 23-3.110 titled

