



Closing an Unused Well

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This fact sheet is provided for information purposes only. A well owner must consult a provincially certified well driller and provincial regulations to ensure a well is closed properly and within the specified time frame.

Do I need to close my well?

As per [Township of Langley Waterworks Regulation Bylaw 2008 \(No. 4697, section 7\)](#), if you begin to receive municipal water, you are obligated to **decommission your well within 30 days of connection**.

Why should I close my well?

If wells are not maintained, they can pose serious risks to you, your family, and your community. Unused wells can endanger:

- Public health (i.e. Contaminated well water could spread to groundwater and municipal water);
- Public safety (i.e. Someone could fall inside);
- Environmental health (i.e. Contaminated well water could diminish the quality of soil and aquifer*).

* An aquifer is a permeable layer of rock that stores large quantities of water, through which groundwater moves.

How should I close my well?

First, contact a certified well driller who will assess the well closure requirements and provide you with a cost estimate. A [registry of qualified well drillers](#) can be found on the Ministry of Environment website. The driller will close the well for you as per provincial requirements.

Generally, the process itself is three-fold but is adjusted according to the condition of the well. First, all equipment in the well is removed. Second, the well is flushed clean. Third, the well is filled with an appropriate sealant and clean materials to prevent contaminants migrating through the well and around it.

For more information, consult the [Water Act \(2004\) Groundwater Regulation](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) as outlined by the Ministry of Environment on its website.

My well has been closed ... now what?

Your certified well driller should be able to guide you through the process. The driller will need to fill out a well closure report and submit it to the Ministry of Environment.

Be sure to keep a copy of the report. To learn more about the well closure process, contact the Ministry of Environment at 1.877.855.3222 or visit their website www.gov.bc.ca/env/.