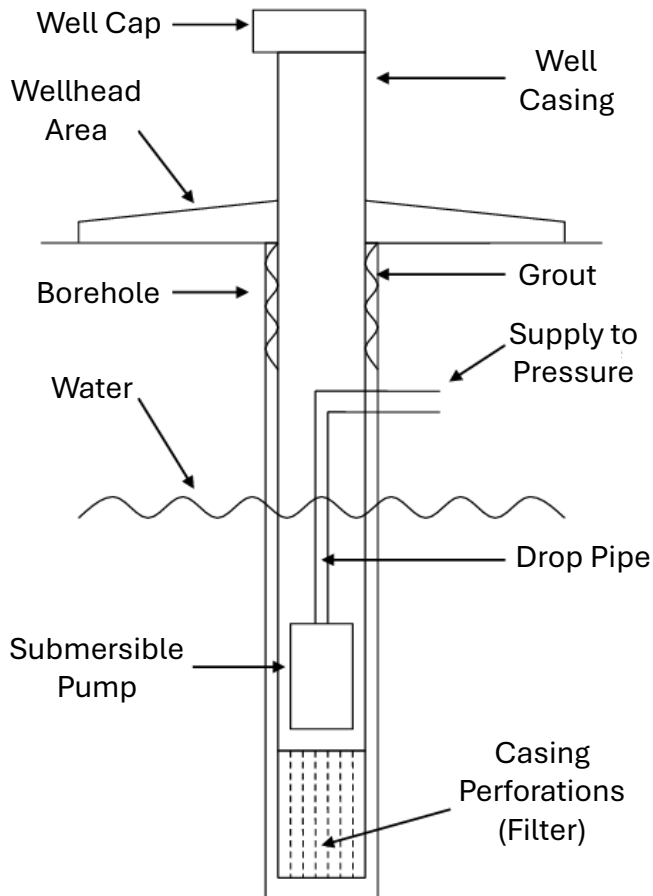


How Wells Work

Groundwater wells work by drilling a hole into an underground aquifer—a saturated layer of soil, sand, or rock—and installing a pipe (casing) with a pump to lift water to the surface. A submersible pump typically pushes water up, while screens at the bottom filter sediment, providing a consistent, filtered water supply.

Typical Well Construction



Maintaining Your Well

Shield your wellhead area. Keep pesticides, fertilizers, pet and animal waste, livestock, septic system drain fields, dump sites, stored vehicles, and compost piles at least 100 feet away from your well.

Slope the ground. Make sure the ground around your well is higher than the surfaces nearby, to keep surface water from running down along the casing and contaminating your water supply.

Inspect your well annually. Assure there are no gaps between your well cap and well casing. Look for visible cracks to the casing or damage to the well cap and other well components.

Test the well water quality. Test in the spring, and after septic system failures or prolonged droughts. The NMED suggests testing for **bacteria, nitrate, and arsenic** annually. *Refer the table on right for more information.*

Maintain well records. Keep and update records about well including your annual meter readings, NM OSE well permit, well (drilling) log, water quality test results, a log of maintenance work performed, and Santa Fe County water use restrictions.

Getting Water Quality Tested

List of accredited laboratories:
www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/sampling-and-analysis/

Characteristics	Consider Testing
Visible Black Flakes	Manganese
Brown, yellow, or red tint	Iron
Rotten egg odor or taste	Hydrogen sulfide
Metallic odor or taste	pH, iron, zinc, copper, lead
Salty odor or taste	Total Dissolved Solids
Gasoline/Oil odor or taste	Hydrocarbon Scan, Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs)
Red, brown or black stains on clothing or fixtures	Iron, manganese
Green or blue stains on clothing or fixtures	Copper
White deposits/soap scum on clothing or fixtures	Total Dissolved Solids, calcium and magnesium
Discoloration of children's teeth	Fluoride
Gastrointestinal illness	E.-coli bacteria, sulfates, giardia

Your Well, Your Water, Your Responsibility

As a private well owner, you are responsible for testing your own water annually to ensure that your water quality is safe.

Santa Fe County recommends you monitor your well year-round to catch leaks before they become a problem.

Santa Fe County Water Conservation

Since 2002, Santa Fe County has engaged in comprehensive water conservation programs. This effort was in response to severe droughts and groundwater overuse.

Since implementing the program, the County has mandated water-saving plumbing fixtures in new construction, established a domestic well metering program, and set guidelines for conservation in commercial developments.

These measures ensure: sustainable water resources for our community, fire protection, and preserve traditional land use.

Additional Resources Available At:

[Santa Fe County](#)

Meter Reading

santafecountynm.gov/public-works/utilities/meter_reading

PFAS

santafecountynm.gov/public-works/pfas

Other Resources

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

env.nm.gov/

New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

ose.nm.gov/

New Mexico Department of Health – Environmental Public Health Tracking

nmtracking.doh.nm.gov/

New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources (NMBGMR) - The Groundwater Project

geoinfo.nmt.edu/resources/water/amp/home.html

Taking Care of Your Private Well!



County Water Restrictions
ecode360.com/39283973