



Island County Public Health

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Where Should I Site My Well?

After determining there are no available public water sources able to serve your parcel, a new source may be developed. Prior to drilling your individual or public water system well, the proposed site must be approved

- Individual water sources must be inspected and approved by either a licensed Department of Ecology well driller or the Island County Health Department.
- Public water sources (2 or more connections) must be inspected and approved by the Island County Health Department

Setbacks and other requirements regarding well location include:

- ◆ Well site should be located on the highest ground possible, up-slope from potential contamination sources, and should be protected from normal flooding and surface or subsurface drainage.
- ◆ You must have the right to exercise complete sanitary control of the land in a 100-foot radius around the well. Control can be gained through ownership or through other legal provisions such as recorded covenants.
- ◆ Maintain the greatest possible setback for the shoreline to mitigate seawater intrusion concerns.
- ◆ Minimum Setbacks:
 - Well to septic tank – 50 feet (individual wells), 100 feet (public wells).
 - Well to edge of septic system drainfields -100 feet.
 - Well to privies -100 feet.
 - Well to sewage transport pipelines - 50 feet (individual wells), 100 feet (public wells).
 - Well to sewage or manure lagoon -100 feet.
 - Well to solid waste landfill -1,000 feet
 - Well to county road or state highway right-of-way - 100 feet.
 - From concentrations of animals (e.g. stock water trough, feed rack, holding pens, chicken house or other poultry enclosure) - 100 feet.
 - From property lines - 100 feet, unless neighboring property owner grants restrictive covenant.
 - From all structures (e.g.. house, garage, barn) - 100 feet for public wells only. (Well pump house and water reservoirs are an exception, and may be within the 100 foot sanitary radius).
 - From critical areas (e.g. streams and wetlands) - as determined by Island County Planning & Community Development.
 - From bluff - as determined by Island County Public Works.

Greater setback distances may be required by the Health officer based on geological and hydrological data or local water quality trends