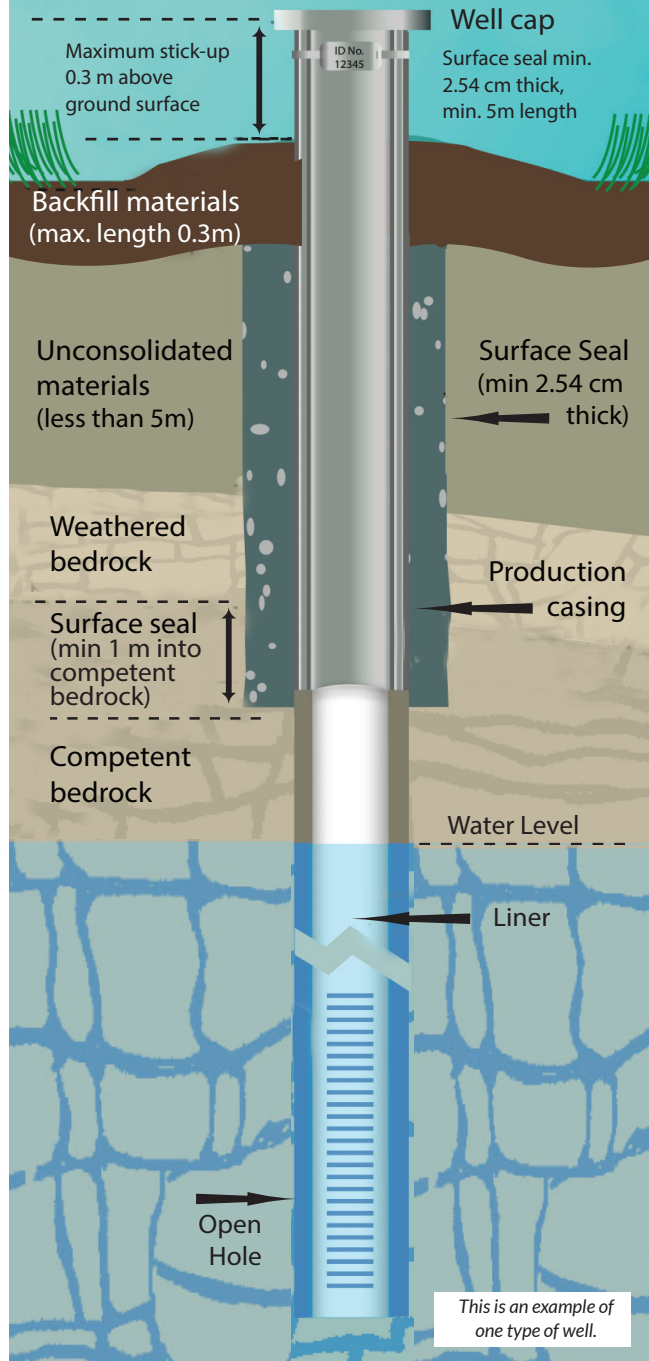


DRILLED BEDROCK WELL PROFILE



Water Sustainability ON YOUR PROPERTY AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Groundwater is a community resource - conserve whenever possible: caring for your well protects water for all

There are over 2500 groundwater wells on Salt Spring

Keep trees and soil, wetlands and riparian areas intact to act like a sponge during drought

Estimate your needs - BC water calculator online
<http://bcwatercalculator.ca/landscape/irrigation>

What to do when groundwater is inadequate:

- Harvest rainwater and treat water for non-potable or potable use: <https://tinyurl.com/y5zezapy>
- Supplement outdoor and/or indoor non-potable uses sourced from rain, groundwater and/or surface water sources* with paid drinking water delivery

PRO TIP:

*Diversion, storage and use of water from naturally-occurring lakes, creeks, springs and ponds requires a licence in most cases.



KNOW YOUR WELL *Groundwater*



New islander? New wellowner?
Introducing you to your water supply



Salt Spring Island
Watershed
Protection Alliance

TEST YOUR WELL'S GROUNDWATER

Collect sample following laboratory requirements

Bacteriological – twice annually* (dry season)

- Total coliforms (0 CFU/100ml)
- Fecal coliforms (0 CFU/100ml) - Test wet and dry season

Geochemical – Every 2 years

- If parameters exceed Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines*, water treatment may be required.
- Check levels of Arsenic and Manganese to ensure they are below limits for health reasons
- Iron levels may also be measured for aesthetic concerns

Test for conductivity (salinity) if well is 500 m from shoreline:

- See Best Practices for Prevention of Saltwater Intrusion <https://tinyurl.com/m4kwuaa7>
- Analyze groundwater for chloride (<150 mg/L) and conductivity (<1000 µS/cm)
- Groundwater in the neighbourhood may be impacted by saltwater intrusion

Also test when:

- sudden changes taste, colour, appearance
- flooding

FAQ

Do I require a licence for my groundwater source?

No, if: Well is considered a domestic water supply
Yes, if:

- ✓ livestock, irrigation of an area >1000m²
- ✓ short term rental cottage, business or commercial use

About licensing: <https://tinyurl.com/mzjhn45f>

Do I need to register my groundwater well?

Registering your domestic well will help to acknowledge your rights and protect your water use

It has no cost, and is distinct from licensing. Learn more at the link above.

Check GWELLS <https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/gwells/> to see if your well is registered. If it is not, submit a registration form here: <https://tinyurl.com/gwells-form>

When do I need to disinfect my well?

After drilling, altering, developing or rehabilitation
<https://tinyurl.com/2f7r5xkj>

PROTECT WATER QUALITY

This applies to shallow groundwater wells and drilled wells.

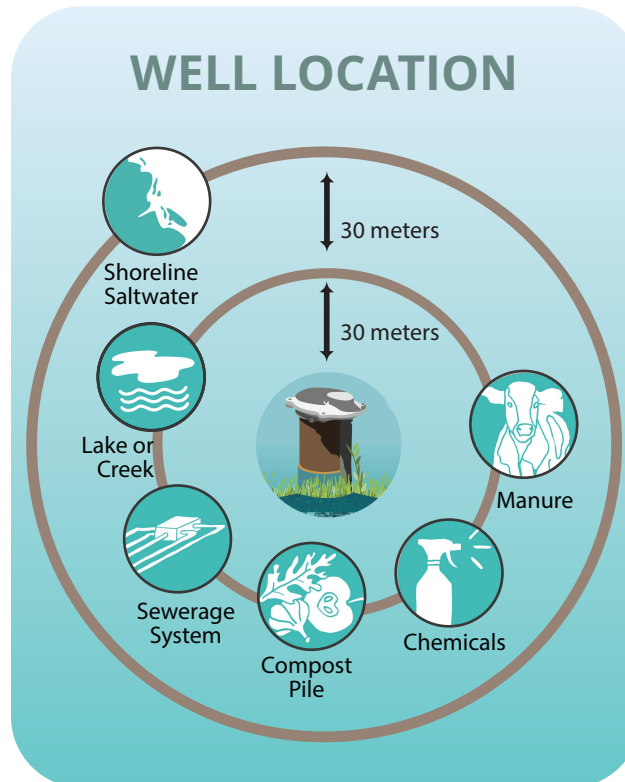
For both new and existing wellowners:

Ensure:

- ☐ Well cap is water-tight, vermin- proof
- ☐ Ground slopes away from well, not in a pit

For new wellowners:

- ☐ Situate wells a minimum of 30 m upgradient from potential sources of contamination, such as septic field
- ☐ 120 m from cemetery, 300 m from landfill
- ☐ If covered, provide vented pumphouse
- ☐ Well is accessible (for maintenance)



*see page 42 2017 Groundwater Protection Handbook
<https://tinyurl.com/2kbdkbee>

WATER SUSTAINABILITY

Groundwater is a community resource - all surface and groundwater in the Gulf Islands is sourced from rainfall - conserve whenever possible.

Groundwater protection is essential to ensure safe yield during dry spells.

Use non-potable sources for outdoor needs.

More information is available at:

www.ssiwpa.org/groundwaterresources

BC Groundwater Protection Handbook:
<https://tinyurl.com/43b5jpxc>

www.gov.bc.ca/water

If you are a current wellowner or intending to drill a groundwater well, this pamphlet points to some key considerations.

Provincial water information:
www.gov.bc.ca/water

Water licensing www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca

Before drilling, refer to "Before you Drill"
<https://tinyurl.com/water-wells-brochure>

Provincial driller and pump installer registry
<https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/gwells/>

BC Groundwater Association Member/Contractor Directory
<https://www.bcgwa.org/type/drilling-contractor/>

Thank you **Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance**
Steering Committee and SSIWPA Technical Working Group



www.ssiwpa.org