

## For more information

Online visit: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wells/wellhome.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wells/wellhome.html) – click on wells

See Chapter 173-160 WAC

Dept. of Ecology, Headquarters  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia WA 98504  
(360) 407-6872

### **Bellingham**

Field Office  
1440 - 10<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 102  
Bellingham WA 98225  
(360) 715-5200

### **Bellevue**

Northwest Region Office  
3190 - 160th Ave. SE  
Bellevue WA 98008  
(425) 649-7000

### **Olympia**

Southwest Region Office  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia WA 98504  
(360) 407-6300

### **Vancouver**

Field Office  
2108 Grand Blvd.  
Vancouver WA 98661  
(360) 690-7171

### **Yakima**

Central Region Office  
1250 W Alder St  
Union Gap WA 98903-0009  
(509) 575-2490

### **Spokane**

Eastern Region Office  
4601 N Monroe St  
Spokane WA 99205  
(509) 329-3400

Washington State Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia WA 98504-7600

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# Wells Caps

## Problems and Solutions

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## WELL CAPS

Wells are drilled for different reasons: exploration, sampling, monitoring, or extraction. Over half of this country's rural residents use wells for drinking water. In this state alone, over 7,000 water wells are drilled yearly.

We should all take responsibility to protect our groundwater every time a well is constructed. One simple way to protect groundwater is to cap wells securely, both during and after construction.

### Washington's Well Construction Rule on capping wells:

*"All wells which are not in use, or are temporarily out of service, must be securely capped so that no contamination can enter the well. Capping must be affixed by solid welds or equal to prevent unauthorized access to the well." Chapter 173-160 WAC.*

Well capping is one of the features in our state well construction standards that Ecology inspectors look for. It is also something that homeowners and well drillers should take seriously. A proper cap will help ensure your family's safety and is absolutely necessary in making sure that contamination is unable to enter a well from the top.

### What does Ecology look for in a well cap?

Two common methods of capping wells are:

- 1) The use of manufactured well caps.
- 2) The use of metal plates welded to the top of the well casing.

Both methods are acceptable, provided you securely attach the cap so that it prevents contamination and unpermitted access to the well. All manufactured well caps should have a screened vent.

Occasionally, our inspectors find a plate or an overturned bucket used to cover the well casing. These are not acceptable methods of capping a well, and do not meet state standards.

### Where can I buy manufactured well caps?

These caps can be supplied by your driller or purchased at pump and water supply stores.

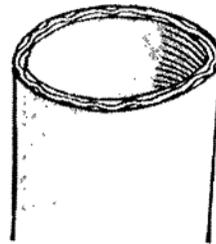
***Do your part in keeping groundwater safe and clean!***

*If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Water Resources Program at 360-407-6872. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.*

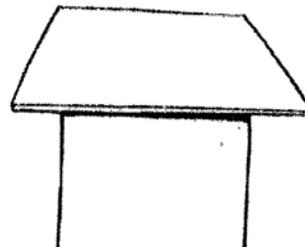
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### Correct steps in capping a well temporarily:

Step 1.  
If jagged, cut top of pipe casing off.



Step 2.  
Securely weld lid onto pipe casing.



### Capping methods that don't meet state standards:

