



Well Driller Regulations

A Guide for Well Driller Applicants & Homeowners

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Well Driller Program is providing this guide to inform well driller applicants and homeowners about the requirements and responsibilities related to well drilling activities. Your cooperation is essential to ensuring compliance with state regulations and protecting groundwater resources.

Well Driller Certification

Under 310 CMR 46.00, well drilling activities—including installation, deepening, decommissioning, and hydrofracturing—must be performed by a Massachusetts Certified Well Driller (CWD)

If a non-certified well driller is performing the work, a Certified Well Driller (CWD) must be on-site to observe critical aspects of the drilling process

To ensure that only authorized well drillers perform the drilling or are on site for observation, local officials should

- Require the driller to present a valid Massachusetts Well Drillers Certificate before drilling
- Check MassDEP's website for the current list of CWDs to verify authorization
- Certifications must be renewed annually, so officials should avoid referencing outdated CWD lists and should verify that the driller's certificate shows the current year.

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[Scan the QR Code for more a list of Certified Well Drillers](#)

Municipal Responsibilities & Enforcement

Municipalities play a crucial role in maintaining compliance with well drilling regulations and ensuring safe drinking water and groundwater resource protection.

If a well has been installed by a non-certified driller, or a Well Completion Report (WCR) has not been filed or contains incorrect information, municipal officials should:

- ✓ **Notify the MassDEP Well Driller Program:** Please contact MassDEP Drinking Water Program (Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov or 617-292-5770) and provide a brief description of the issue along with the supporting facts
- ✓ **Issue Enforcement:** Boards of Health (BOH) may be able to issue enforcement through their regulations. When BOH issue enforcement, MassDEP expects them to submit a copy of the enforcement action to the email addresses below.

Well Completion Reports (WCRs)

Per 310 CMR 46.03(3), certified well drillers must submit a Well Completion Report to MassDEP within 30 days of finishing the job and provide a copy to the municipal BOH.

Well Completion Reports (WCRs) FAQ's

- Which wells require a WCR? All wells, including irrigation, geothermal, monitoring, domestic, and public water supply wells, unless exempt under 310 CMR 46.02(1)
- Why is the WCR important? The WCR helps track all well installations and ensures compliance with drilling standards.



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Well Permits

Well drilling activity also requires a local permit in most communities. This mechanism helps ensure that a WCR is filed for every well and that municipal officials are kept informed of all well drilling activity in their community.

The local permitting process helps ensure:

- A WCR is filed for every well drilled
- The BOH stays informed of all well drilling activities
- Follow-ups can be conducted if a WCR is missing or drilling is reported without a permit

If a drilling permit is issued but the BOH does not receive a WCR within 30 days, the BOH will conduct a site visit to verify the well installation.

For questions about well drilling or WCRs, or to notify MassDEP of unauthorized well drilling, please contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov Subject: Well Driller Program, or call (617) 292-5770

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[MassDEP Well Driller Program Website](#)

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[310 CMR 46.00: Certification of Well Drillers and Filing of Well Completion Reports](#)