

Accessing Online Well Records

All well records for wells that are registered with the State of Wisconsin are publically available on the internet. If available, the well records may be found at:

- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) online database,
- The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) online database, or from
- The Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey (WGNHS).

The DATCP online well records and WGNHS are not DNR.

The DNR online database generally contains well records that are newer than 1988. And, the DATCP online database contains scanned .pdf images of historic well records from approximately 1936 to 1989. The links provided below may be copied and pasted to your browser address box, or clicked for direct access to the web pages.

Access to the DNR Online Well Records Database (generally, well records newer than 1988):

- Direct link to the DNR wells database is here: [http://prodoasext.dnr.wi.gov/inter1/watr\\$.startup](http://prodoasext.dnr.wi.gov/inter1/watr$.startup)
- Access to the DNR wells database through the DNR Drinking Water home page is here: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/drinkingwater/>
 - Click the third link below the “Wells” heading.
- You can also Google: dnr.wi.gov and type “Drinking Water” in the main search box. This will take you to DNR’s Drinking Water home page.

Access to the DATCP Online Well Records Database (historic well records 1936-1989):

- Direct link to the DATCP wells database is here: <https://datcpqgis.wi.gov/maps/?viewer=wcr>
- The DATCP online well records database is based on records that were obtained from WGNHS.
- Users need to zoom into their property location. The red markers indicate general locations of known wells.
- Clicking a red marker will open a list of available well records on the left side of the open browser window. Users must manually check each available record to see if it matches their property.

Access to the WGNHS website:

- Direct link to the WGNHS website is here: <http://wisconsingeologicalsurvey.org/water-environment/well-records/>
- The WGNHS also offers a fee-based service that allows customers to order specific well records.

Search Notes:

- Obtaining the Wisconsin Unique Well Number (WUWN), or Well Image Number, may help you in your search for a well. The WUWN should be assigned to a well at the time the well is installed. Many older (older than 1988) wells may not have a WUWN, instead they may have a WGNHS Well Image Number.
- Many older well logs contain vague address and/or locations, and may be difficult to connect to a specific property. The old home address system was often different than the address system that is used today. Therefore, it may be helpful to know the last name of the person who owned the well the time the house was built, the lot number and/or the home builder name. Some of this information can be obtained from a property title search, and this is not information that is known to DNR.
- The DNR does not keep any records pertaining to shared wells or shared well agreements. Shared wells are a civil matter between the parties who share the well. There may be Deed attachments pertaining to the shared well agreements, and these records may be on file with the Municipal or County property and/or tax records.

Records Pertaining to Filled and Sealed Wells:

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- The DNR also offers an online database that tracks locations of filled and sealed wells.
- The link to the Filled and Sealed Well Database is here: <http://dnr.wi.gov/warsreport/report>

Property Transfer:

- The DNR does not regulate the sale or purchase of homes that have private water wells.
- Parties involved in the sale or purchase of these properties are advised that the well should be constructed according to Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 812, and that the well should produce safe water.
- Parties involved in the sale or purchase of a property with a private water well may retain the services of a DNR-licensed pump installer or DNR-licensed well driller to conduct a well inspection. The well inspection may include the well casing measurement; however it is not a requirement.