



## I HAVE A WELL AND SEPTIC ON MY PROPERTY, OR I AM DRILLING A NEW WELL

Groundwater is not treated with chemicals, and is softened naturally by the soil around the water table. It is important to protect the ground water or your well water may become exposed to harmful bacteria.



## HOW CAN MY SEPTIC SYSTEM AFFECT MY OR MY NEIGHBOR'S WELL WATER?

According to the Environmental Health On-Site Wastewater Rules and Regulations ([https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/related\\_files/site\\_page/EnvHealthOnsiteRulesChapter511-3-1Jan2016.pdf](https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/EnvHealthOnsiteRulesChapter511-3-1Jan2016.pdf)): If properties are served by individual water supply systems, the absorption field shall be installed not less **than 50 feet** from property lines unless wells and on-site sewage management systems are already in place on surrounding property and the **required 100 feet** separation distance between wells and absorption fields can be maintained. Ignoring these important setbacks can allow bacteria to get into the groundwater from septic effluent and ultimately into the water that flows to your well or your neighbor's well (Page F1).

## WHAT STEPS SHOULD I TAKE TO ENSURE THAT MY WELL IS BEING INSTALLED SAFELY?

First you should contact a Certified Well Driller who will assist you with mapping out the most ideal areas for installing a well on your property which will take into consideration safety factors such as your neighbor's or your own septic drain lines. Your well driller should then contact the Department of Environmental Health to acquire a drawing of your septic system and neighboring systems so that they can maintain the necessary setbacks to ensure that your well water will be safe for consumption. All abandoned wells must be filled, sealed and plugged by a certified well driller according to The State of Georgia Water Well Standards Act of 1985.

(<https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/EnvHealth/Well/AbandonWellFactSheet.pdf>)

Once a well is filled by a Certified Well Driller a 15 foot setback can be maintained for septic lines.

## WELL WATER TESTING

Please contact the Jackson County Extension-UGA office at 706 367 6344 for information on how to test your well water. Additional helpful information can be found at <https://dph.georgia.gov/individual-private-wells>. For a list of licensed well drillers, contact the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch at 404-657-6126, or visit their website at [www.gaepd.org](http://www.gaepd.org).

Feel free to contact our office if you have any other questions at 706 367 3643 or email [Jackson.eh@dph.ga.gov](mailto:Jackson.eh@dph.ga.gov)