



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Proper Well Abandonment

The Arkansas Water Well Construction Commission (AWWCC) was created by the Arkansas State General Assembly under Act 641 of 1969 and serves a vital role in providing for the proper development of groundwater resources in the state. The demand for potable water necessitates enforcement standards, which are set forth by the AWWCC and are designed to ensure proper construction of water wells, proper pump installation procedures, and proper well abandonment procedures.

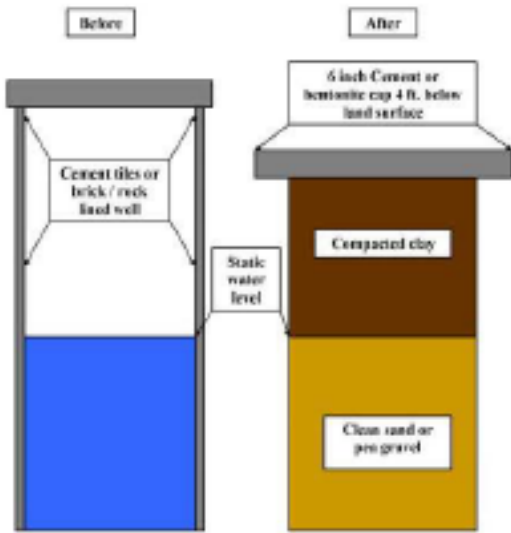
The AWWCC requires well abandonment be done by a licensed water well contractor. To obtain a list of licensed contractors go to <https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-water-well-construction-commission/>.

Important facts for proper well abandonment:

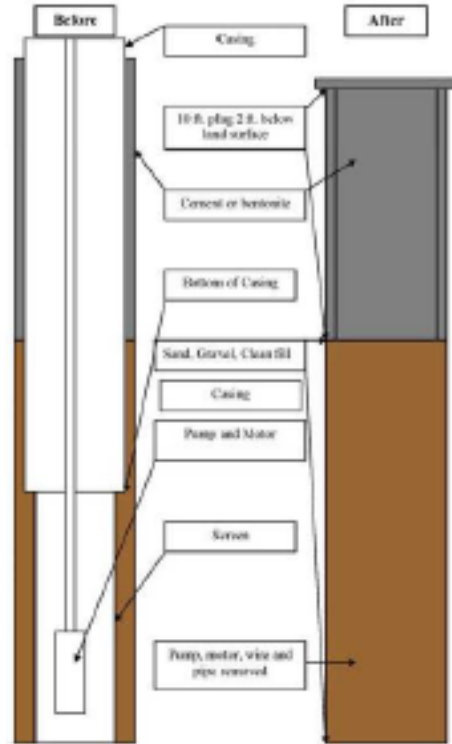
- The Commission requires all abandoned wells be properly plugged.
- The Commission recommends all pumping equipment be removed from the well.
- All hand dug wells should be filled with clean fill (sand, gravel) to the static water level, and clay or natural material to within 4 feet of land surface and capped with at least 6" of cement or bentonite extending at least 1 foot over original bore.
- All wells in unconsolidated formations shall be filled from bottom to within 12 feet of land surface with sand, gravel or natural material, and from 12 feet to 2 feet with cement or bentonite.
- Wells in consolidated formations shall have a cement or bentonite seal from 50' below the bottom of the casing with a minimum of 100' from land surface. Depending on aquifers, and other hydro geologic factors, clean fill may be used to fill remaining depth. Wells completed in multiple aquifers, must have a minimum 50' seal emplaced in each confining unit between the aquifers.
- All wells plugged in the State shall be reported to AWWCC on an approved form.

For more information about this program or you can contact the AWWCC at (501) 682-3900 or visit the Agency website at <https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-water-well-construction-commission/>.

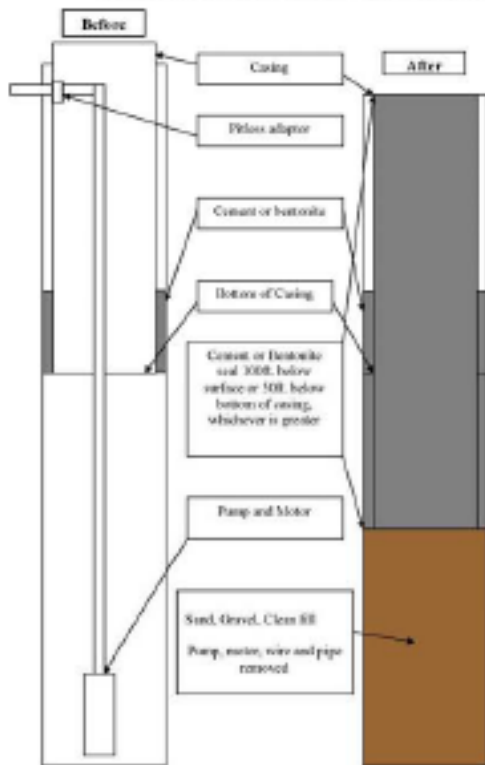
Generalized diagram
Hand dug or large bored well



Generalized diagram
Unconsolidated well before and after abandonment



Generalized diagram
Consolidated well before and after abandonment



Generalized diagram
Multi-aquifer well in
Consolidated formations

