

## Steps to Receive Cost-Share Assistance

1 Complete a Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) Application.

2 Request a cost estimate for the well abandonment project from a Licensed Well Driller or Pump Installer.

*If the first estimate exceeds \$500.00, a second estimate is required.*

3 Submit a copy of the cost estimate(s) to the Winnebago County LWCD for review.

4 If the project is eligible, a Cost-Share Agreement (CSA) is signed and notarized by all necessary parties.

*Well owners that do not have a signed and approved CSA prior to beginning the project will be denied cost-sharing.*

5 Once the well is properly abandoned, the service provider must complete and sign a WDNR Well Abandonment Form 3300-005 and give a copy to the well owner.

The well owner submits documents for reimbursement to the LWCD.

6 **1)** A signed and dated receipt indicating the amount paid **or** the invoice marked "Paid In Full" signed and dated.

**2)** A completed WDNR Well Abandonment Form 3300-005.

7 Winnebago County LWCD sends a check to the well owner in accordance with the CSA.



## CONTACT US

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**Winnebago County**

Land & Water Conservation Department

## Well Abandonment Cost-Share Program



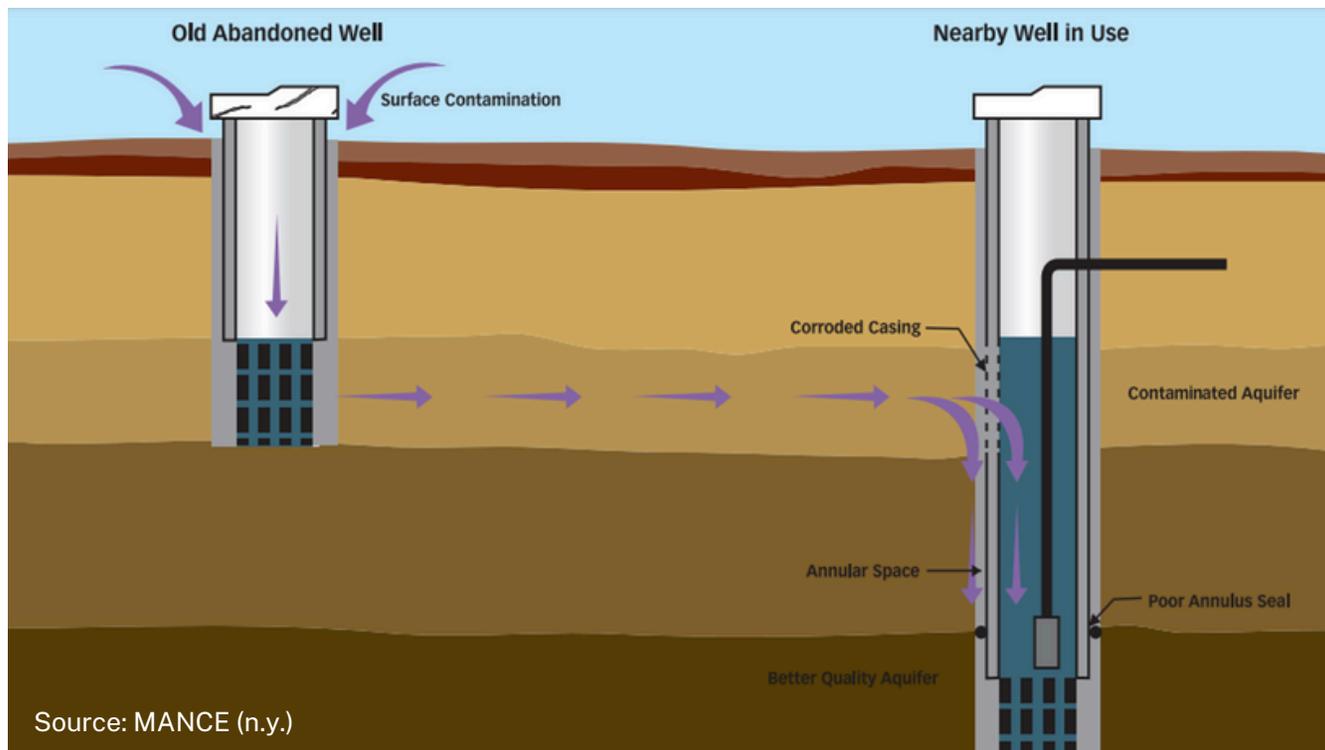
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# Why Should I Abandon My Well?

Old wells that are left open or unused are at risk of having contaminants enter into them and into the groundwater. Drilled wells can develop cracks in the steel casing that can let contaminants through. Once contaminants reach groundwater, it is difficult, if not impossible to remove them. Often the contamination will migrate to other wells drawing water from the same aquifer.

Old and unused wells may also pose a safety hazard. Old dug wells can be 6 feet across and 50 feet deep or deeper. Serious injury could result if a person or animal fell into an old well.



Source: MANCE (n.y.)



For these reasons, Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) provides cost-share assistance to private well owners to properly fill and seal their wells.

## Filling and Sealing

- Wells must be properly filled and sealed when they are no longer in use or fail to meet the State Well Code (NR812) standards.
- Only licensed well drillers and pump installers may be hired to fill and seal wells.
- The size and history of your well may be found on the DNR's website at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), search for 'Well Construction Reports.' Records date back to 1936.
- First, the pump, piping and any debris must be removed.
- Then the well is filled and sealed with bentonite chips or cement grout, ensuring the material reaches the bottom.
- The well casing may be cut below grade or left in place.

## Cost-Share Ranking

Well abandonment projects will be ranked as a high or low resource concern and cost-shared as follows:

**High resource concern wells** are eligible for up to **90%** cost-sharing.

**Low resource concern wells** are eligible for up to **50%** cost-sharing, with a maximum reimbursement of **\$1,000**.

A well located in an area with a low potential to allow pollutant loading into the groundwater as determined by the LWCD shall be deemed a low resource concern well.