



Drilling *your* own well?

IF SO, YOU NEED TO KNOW
THE FOLLOWING FACTS

Many homeowners have installed wells using a special nozzle that attaches to a garden hose to “jet” the well into the ground. Although you can install jetted wells on your property for your own use without being a licensed well driller, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has regulations that do apply to homeowners.

fact 1: Wells must be constructed in accordance with state *Well Standards*, R.61-71.

You must put grout in the space between the borehole and the casing down to at least 20 feet. Grout prevents pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and other contaminants from entering the well. Proper construction not only helps protect our state’s groundwater supplies, but also helps protect you and your family’s health!

fact 2: You must have a permit to install a well. This allows a DHEC inspector to make sure your well is being installed properly.

Regulation 61-44, *Individual Residential Well and Irrigation Well Permitting*, requires that wells be permitted and a fee paid. There are two steps:

- 1) The well owner or well driller will complete the one-page Notice of Intent form (Form 3647) and submit it to the Private Well Program at DHEC’s office in Columbia along with the appropriate fee: \$70 for a drinking water well or \$50 for an irrigation well
- 2) The person drilling the well will contact the local DHEC District EQC Office to provide the time and date of drilling 48 hours before drilling begins.

You could be fined up to \$5,000 per day for not following these steps or for having an improper well.

fact 3: You may also need a permit from your local city or county government.

*For additional information, contact DHEC’s Jim Hess at (803)898-3376 or check our Web site at www.scdhec.net/eqc/water/ and click on *Drinking Water* and then on *Residential Wells*.*

