

# Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Rules Training

Texas Groundwater Summit  
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# Primary Goals of the Program

- Groundwater Protection!
- License Qualified Drillers and Pump Installers
- Establish and Enforce **MINIMUM** Well Construction, Well Plugging, and Pump Installation Standards
- Administration of the Abandoned Well Notification and Enforcement Program
- Cooperation with State and Federal Agencies and Local Governments





## License Requirements

- A person may not act or offer to act as a driller or pump installer in the State of Texas unless the person is licensed by TDLR.
- Offering to act - Making a written or oral proposal, contracting in writing or orally to perform well drilling or pump installing work, or advertising in any form through any medium that a person or business entity is a well driller or pump installer, or that implies in any way that a person or business entity is available to contract for, act as a driller or installer, or perform well drilling or pump installing work.



## License Endorsements

- Pump Installer:
- Single Phase (P)
- Three Phase (K)
- Turbine (T)
- Windmills, pump jacks, hand pumps (L)
- Master Installer (I) – all of the above

- Driller:
- Water (W)
- Monitor (M)
- Injection (N)
- Dewatering (D)
- Closed Loop Geothermal (C)
- Master Driller (A) – all of the above



## Exemptions

- Any person who drills an observation well within the backfill of an underground storage tank (UST), that is no more than 20 feet in depth.
- Any person who drills an environmental hand auger soil boring that is no more than 10 feet in depth.
- Any person who drills a water well on their own property.
- Any person who drills a dewatering well to remove water for the purpose of constructing a highway, road, bridge, drainage, or underground utility project.



# Unlicensed Assistants Vs. Apprentices

- Unlicensed Assistants

- Not responsible for drilling or pump installation operations.
- Licensee needs to be onsite at all times.
- Can not contract, bid, advertise, or accept payment for drilling or pump installing services.

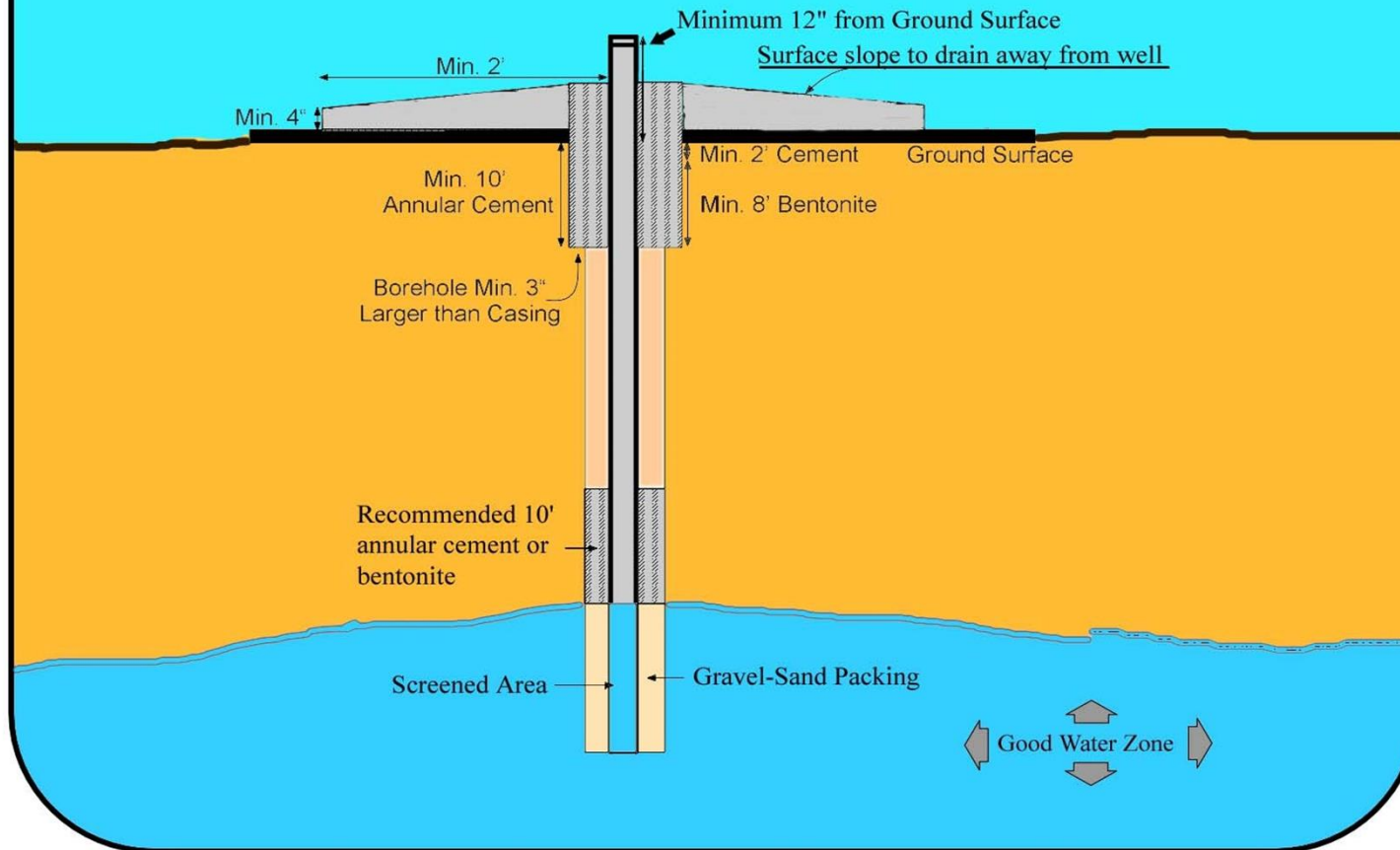
- Licensed Apprentices

- May drill wells and install pumps that the supervising licensee authorizes.
- Responsible for the work performed.
- Must have registration card when performing work.



# PROPER SURFACE & ANNULAR SEALING EXAMPLES

## Chapter 76.100



# **WELL LOCATION**

## **Chapter 76.100(a)**

**Minimum Completion**

**Water-Tightline  
Septic Tank**

**Septic System Absorb-  
tion Field**

**Dry Litter  
Poultry Facility**

**WELL**

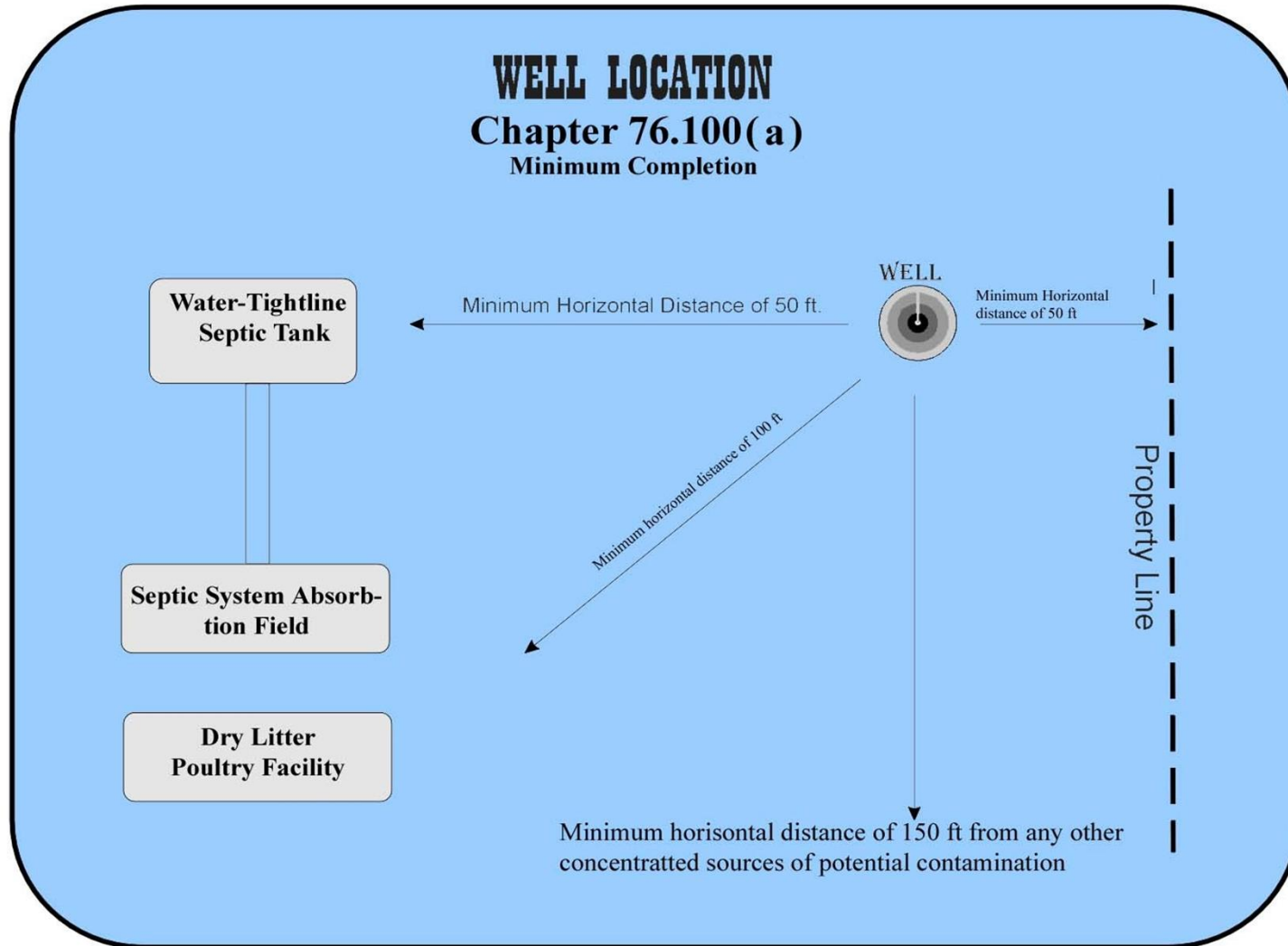
Minimum Horizontal Distance of 50 ft.

Minimum Horizontal  
distance of 50 ft

Property Line

Minimum horizontal distance of 100 ft

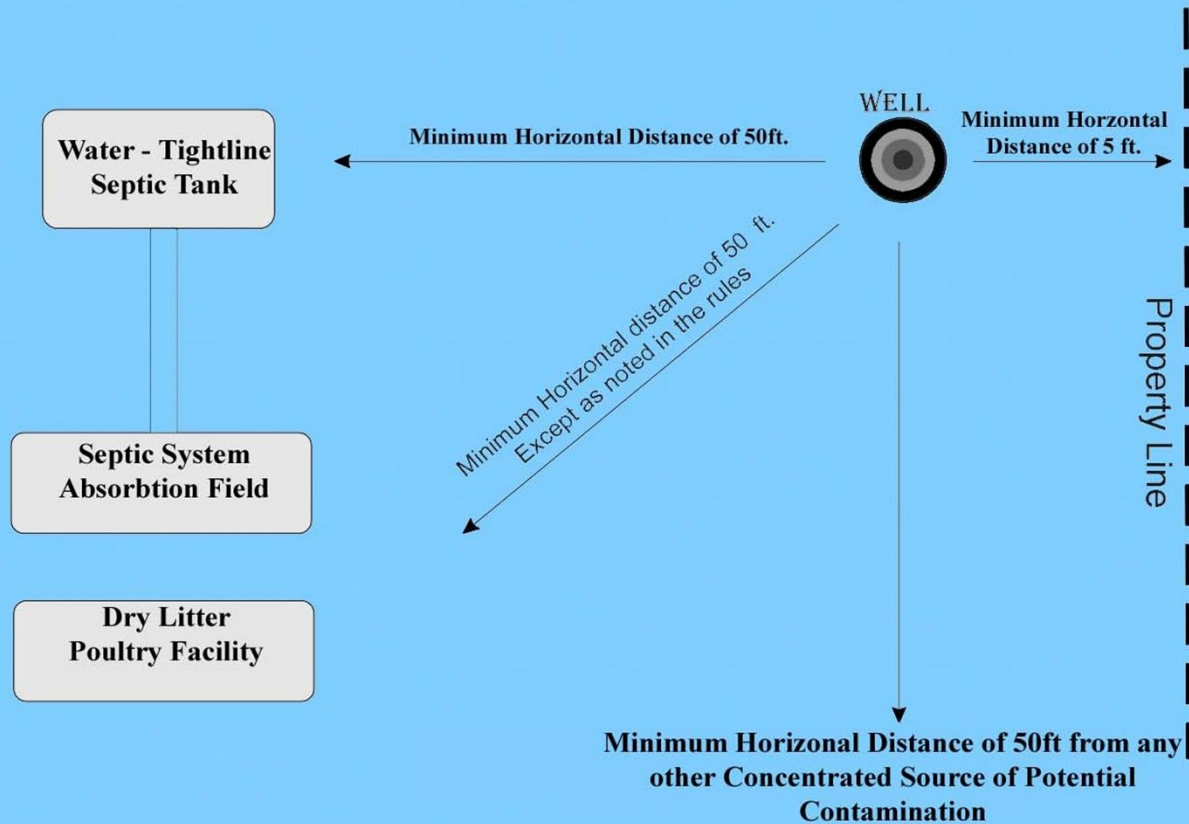
Minimum horizontal distance of 150 ft from any other  
concentrated sources of potential contamination





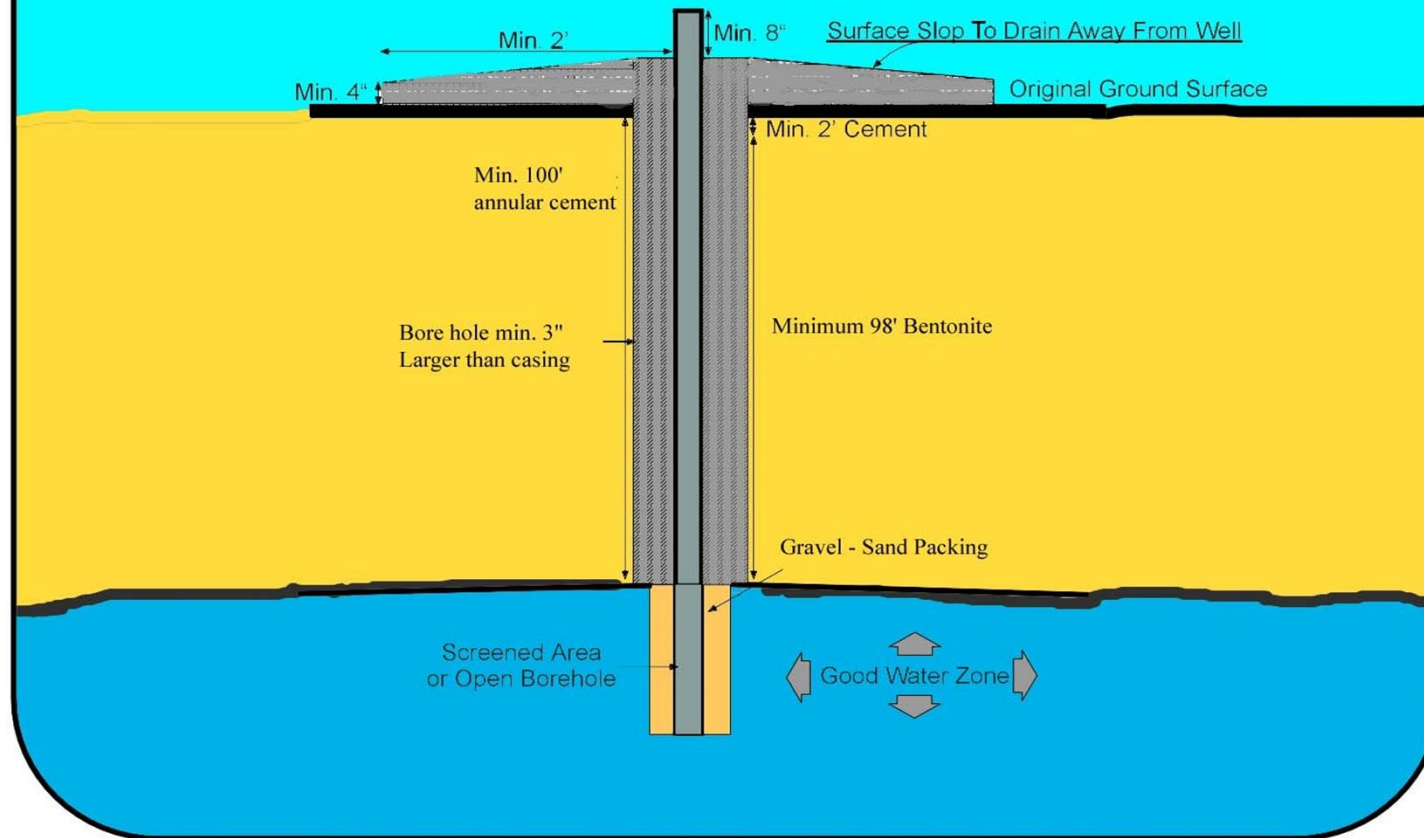
# ALTERNATIVE WELL LOCATION

## Chapter 76.100 (b)(2)



## ANNULAR SEALING EXAMPLE FOR DISTANCE REDUCTION

Chapter 76.100(b)(1) &(2)



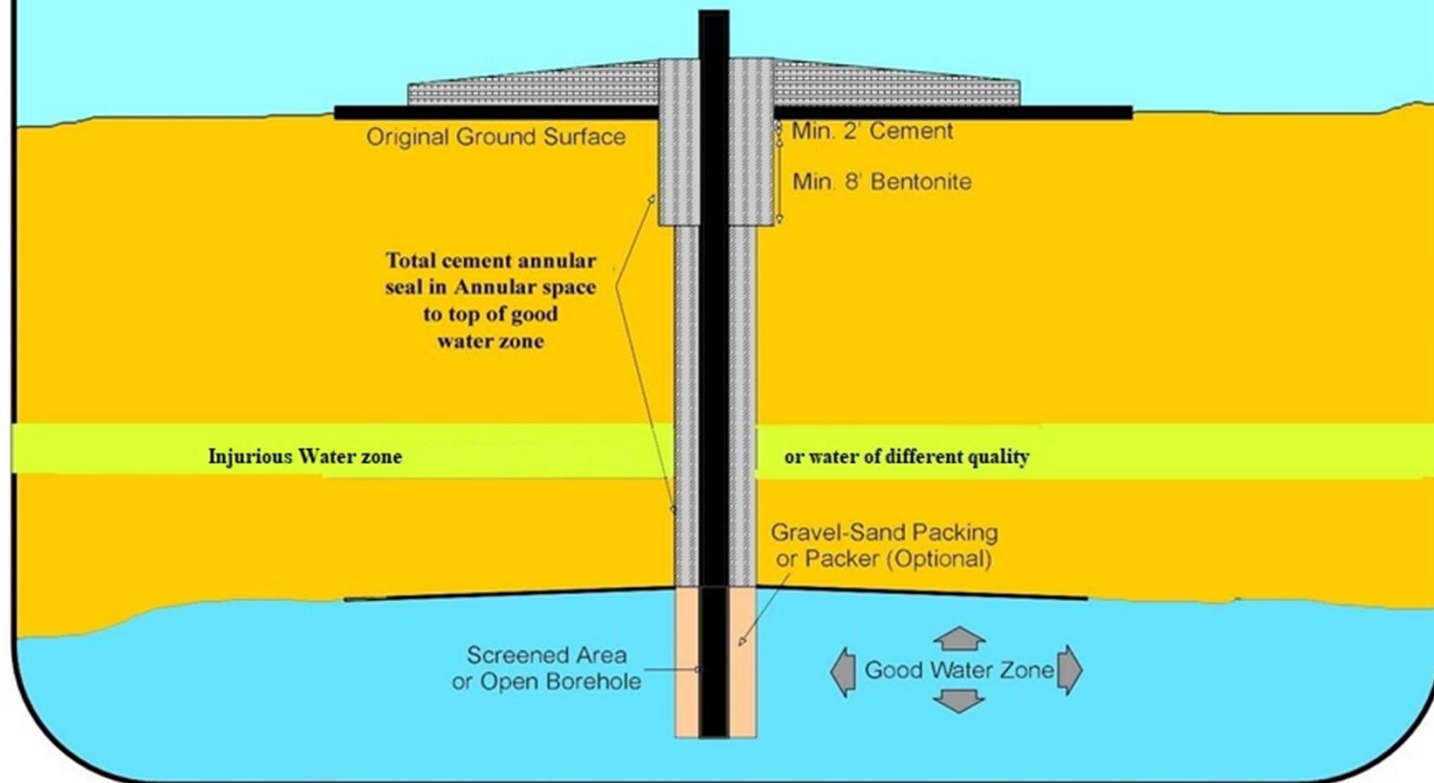
# Commingling

- All wells shall be completed so that **AQUIFERS OR ZONES** containing waters that differ in chemical quality are not allowed to commingle through the borehole casing annulus or the filter pack and cause quality degradation of any **AQUIFER OR ZONE**. When **AQUIFERS OR ZONES** of lesser quality are overlying the production zone, the borehole annulus shall be pressure grouted with bentonite or cement from the top of the production zone back to the surface unless the formations make total grouting impossible or impractical. In this case the entire borehole annulus which is groutable shall be grouted and sealed including proper surface annular grouting and completion.



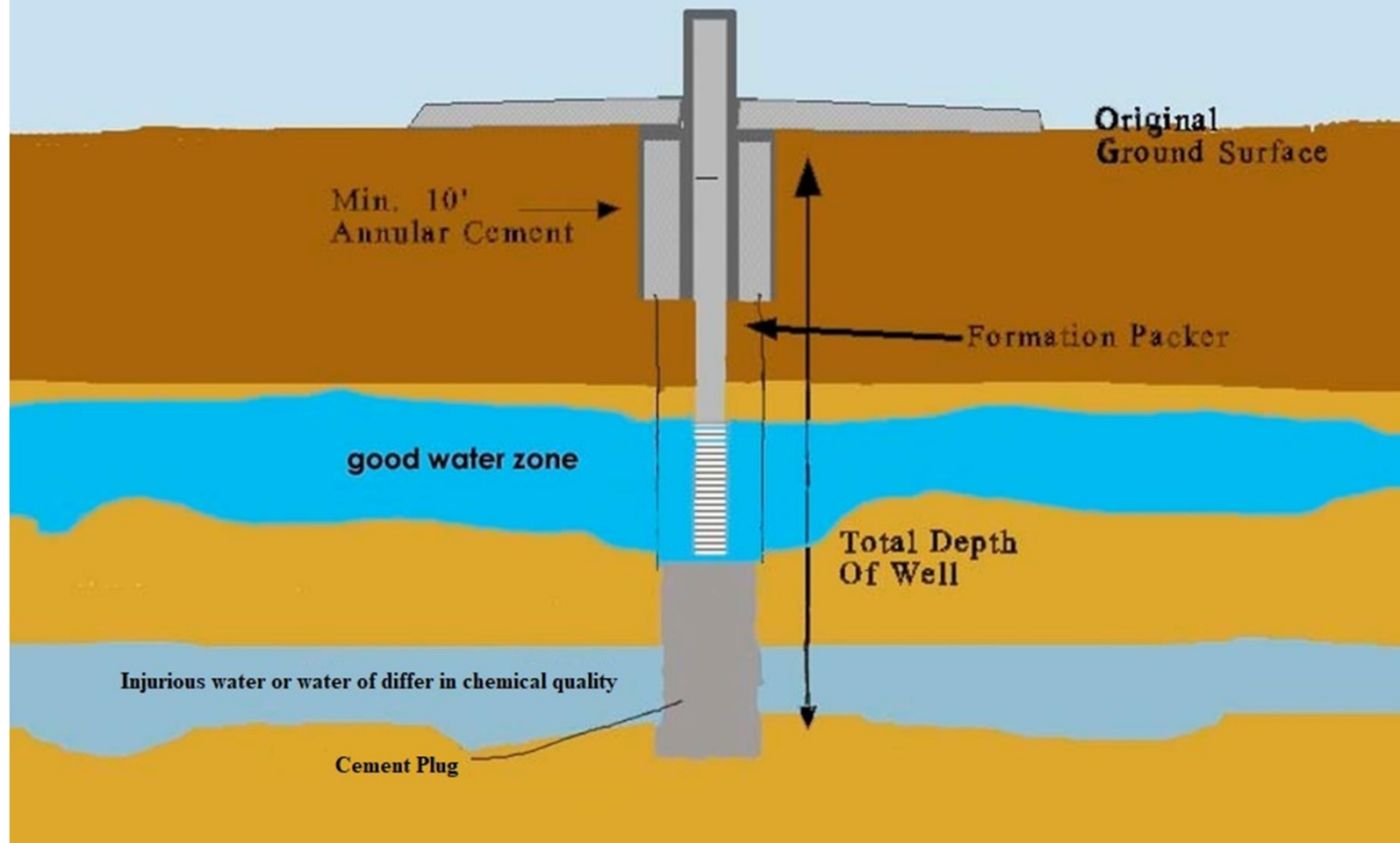
## Injurious Water Overlying Fresh

### Chapter 76.101(2)&(3)



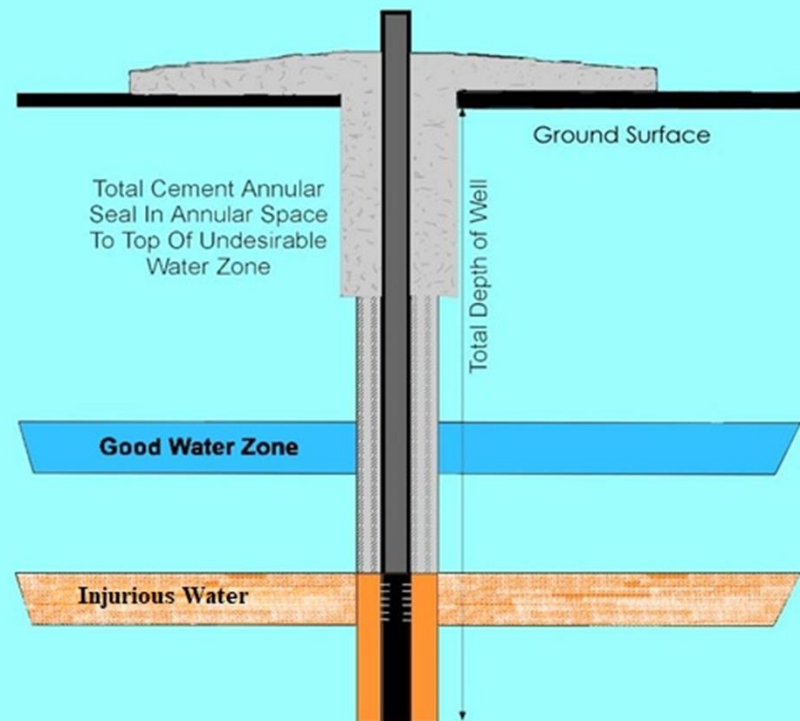
# Injurious Water Underlying Fresh

## Chapter 76.101(4)



# Completion for Producing Injurious Water

**Chapter 76.102(b)**





# Well Construction Material



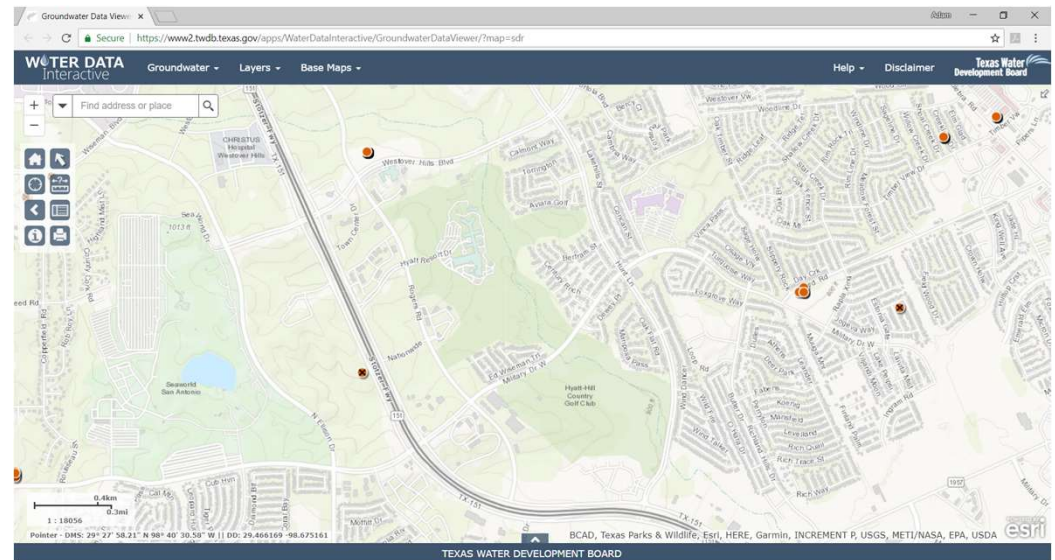
- A licensee shall use a manufacturer's well screen, and select the correct slot size for the screen in the installation of a domestic (household use) or landscape irrigation water well to prevent sand or sediment from entering the well.
- A licensee shall adhere to manufacturers' recommended pump sizing and wiring specifications when wiring a pump.
- A licensee shall select the proper hydraulic collapse pressure for casing.

# Well Reports/Plugging Reports



- Well Report
  - Submit within 60 days of completing well.
  - GCD and well owner must also get a copy.
  - Legible and accurate.
  - Correct GPS coordinates.

- Plugging Report
  - Submit within 30 Days.



# Capping Wells

- It is the responsibility of a landowner or person in possession of a well that is open at the surface, to have the well capped
- The driller of a newly drilled well shall place a cover or cap which is not easily removed over the boring or casing if the well is intended to be left unattended without a pump installed.
- It shall be the responsibility of the pump installer to place a cover or cap over the casing which is not easily removable if the well is intended to be left unattended with the pump removed.



# Test Wells/Dry Holes



- A test well that is drilled for exploring for groundwater shall not be open at the surface or allowing water zones of different chemical qualities to commingle and must be completed or plugged within 6 months of drilling.
- Wells which do not encounter groundwater (dry holes) may be plugged by backfilling with drill cuttings from total depth to the surface.





# Abandoned and Deteriorated Wells



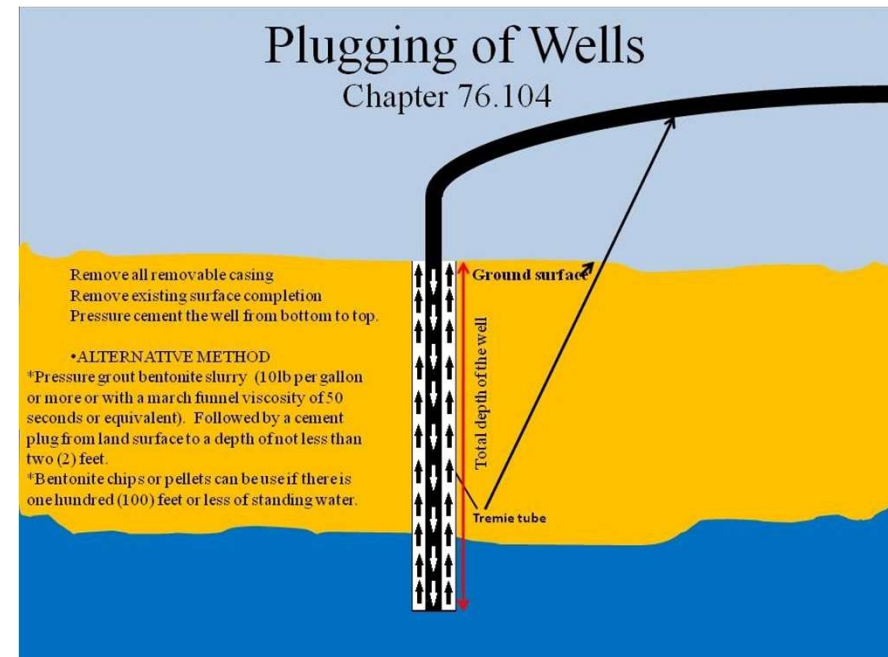
- Deteriorated wells need to be repaired or plugged.
  - 180 days
- Abandoned wells need to be properly capped.





# Plugging Wells

- Remove surface completion.
- Remove pump and drip pipe.
- Remove as much of the casing as possible.
- Pump cement or grout from bottom to top.
- Wells with a stuck pump need a variance to be plugged.
- Large diameter wells can be plugged with native soil.





# Complaints



- <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/complaints/>

A screenshot of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) website's "ONLINE COMPLAINT PROCESS" page. The page has a maroon header with the TDLR logo on the left and contact information on the right. The main content area is white and contains instructions for filing a complaint, two links for reporting violations, and a footer with various policy links.

**tdlr** Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation P.O. Box 12157 Austin, Texas 78711  
800-803-9202 / TDD: 800-735-2989

## ONLINE COMPLAINT PROCESS

Please choose one of the links below to file a complaint

To report a person or company operating without a license, click the link below to get the online form to file a complaint.

[Report the Activity of an Unlicensed Person](#)

To report a violation by a licensed individual or company, click the link below to get the online form to file a complaint.

[Report a License Violation](#)

If you do not know if the person or company is licensed please use the unlicensed link to the left.

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[Texas.gov](#) | [TRAIL Search](#) | [Texas Homeland Security](#) | [Links](#) | [Where the Money Goes](#)

# TDLR - Regulatory Program Management

**Water Well Driller and Pump Installer Program**

**PO Box 12157**

**Austin, Texas 78711**

**NEW!** Phone: 512-334-5540

Email: [water.well@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:water.well@tdlr.texas.gov)

Department Website: [www.tdlr.texas.gov](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov)

**Customer Service: 512-463-6599 or**

**1-800-803-9202**

**Customer Service:**

**[cs.water.well@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:cs.water.well@tdlr.texas.gov)**

