

3.14 WELL CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

- ❑ *Question: Am I planning on having a well constructed on my property to obtain groundwater? OR*
- ❑ *Question: Am I planning on having a geothermal heat pump HVAC system installed?*

Why do I need this approval?

To ensure a clean and adequate supply of underground drinking water, the State carries out programs to prevent contamination of aquifers from improper well construction and well abandonment.

A well construction permit (3.15) is required before installing any well that will explore for water, obtain or monitor ground water, or inject water into any underground formation from which ground water may be produced.

The well construction permit is obtained by the well driller from the local health department.

What laws or regulations give MDE the legal authority to issue this approval?

STATE: Environment Article Title 9, Subtitle 13;
COMAR 26.04.04.

What is the process to get this approval?

Contact the county health department for the application process.

Before I apply for this approval, do I need to get any approvals from the local or federal government?

County health departments generally issue these permits in coordination with the Department.

Is this approval directly related or contingent on other approvals?

The Department may require a water appropriation and use permit (3.15). If the well is to be used on a dairy farm, the project must be approved by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. If the well is to be used for a public water supply, the Department will also require a water and sewerage construction permit (3.07).

Are there any other requirements?

PRE-APPROVAL: The site must be inspected before the permit is issued. Public water supplies must be inspected by MDE, non-public wells are inspected by the local authorities.

POST-APPROVAL: A certificate of potability, based upon the results of water quality sampling, must be issued by the local approving authority, or by the Department for public supplies, before the well can be placed in service as a potable supply.

How long should I expect it to take to get this approval once I submit a complete application?

30 days (This may vary depending on the local health department.)

Once I get this approval, how long will it last?

Twelve months

How much will this approval cost?

Environment Article Section 9-1307 allows up to \$160 per permit. Each county establishes the fee, but may not exceed \$160 per permit.

Who do I contact with additional questions?

Delegated Program Section
(410) 537-3784

Related link:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Permits/WaterManagementPermits/Pages/waterpermits.aspx>