

Property Owner Registration To Construct, Alter, or Seal a Private Water System On Property They Own

Property owners who intend to work on their private water system should contact their local health district or the Private Water Systems Program staff at **(614) 644-7558**. Property Owners, for the purposes of the private water systems program, are any person or persons who owns property in which a well, pond, spring, cistern, or hauled water storage tank exists for the purposes of supplying water to a dwelling, dwellings, or building for human consumption, including toilet flushing and laundry.

Effective April 1, 2011, owners of a primary or secondary property, or property rentals in which they do not reside, or owners altering or sealing water wells for their dwelling house shall obtain a registration to construct, alter, or seal a private water system.

Doing work on your own private water system is no longer a simple matter in Ohio. As of April 1, 2011 there are now registration and surety bonding requirements depending on the type of work you are going to do.

If you are a property owner who lives in the house that has the private water system you intend to work on or are a land lord, then you are required to register with Ohio Department of Health as a private water system contractor and obtain either a \$10,000 or \$20,000 surety bond from an insurance company if you intend to:

- Construct a new system (even if you are replacing an old system) which includes:
 - Drilling a new well;
 - Installing or altering a spring;
 - Installing or altering a rainwater cistern or hauled storage tank;
 - Digging or altering a pond and installing the treatment equipment;
 - Installing a pitless adaptor on a private water system;
 - Installing a pressure tank on a private water system;
 - Installing continuous disinfection and filtration on a private water system.

You are required to become a registered private water contractor with the Ohio Department of Health but are exempt from the surety bonding requirement if you are:

- Altering, as defined in OAC 3701-28-01(A), an existing private water system; or
- Sealing a private water system (OAC 3701-28-17).

You are not required to become a registered private water system contractor if you are a property owner who lives in the house that has the private water system on which you intend to do a "REPAIR" as defined in OAC 3701-28-01(TTT) which includes:

- Replacing pumps;
- Replacing wires;

- Routine disinfection not associated with a permit; and
- Similar activities.