

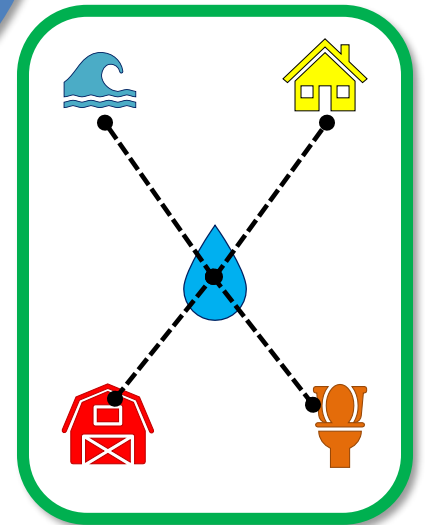
Water well, reservoir and spring location

A fact sheet for drillers and pump installers

There are two tables that can be used to determine the proper placement of a well, reservoir or spring in relation to nearby contaminant sources:

- **Table A** located in NR 812.08 details the minimum separation distances for any well constructed **after July 1, 2020** and is listed first below.
- **Table E** located in NR 812.42 details the minimum separation distances for any well constructed **prior to July 1, 2020** and is listed after Table A below.

Each of these tables are included in this fact sheet and can be referenced to easily determine the required separation distance based on the age of the well or date of installation of the contaminant source. If you have questions about how a contaminant source is defined, please refer to NR 812.07 for the definition.



Use Table A below for all well (or contaminant sources) constructed after July 1, 2020

NR 812.08 (4) RELATION TO CONTAMINANT SOURCES. A well driller or well constructor may not construct or reconstruct a well, install a reservoir, or develop a spring less than the minimum separation distance from a possible contaminant source as specified in Table A. The minimum separation distances of this subsection do not apply to dewatering wells approved under s. NR 812.09 (4) (a). Greater separation distances may be required for wells requiring plan approval under s. NR 812.09. Separation distance requirements to possible contaminant sources may not be waived because of property lines. Separation distances shall be measured from the edge of the well, reservoir or spring, to the nearest edge of the contaminant source or as specified in Table A.

TABLE A (use for wells constructed after July 1, 2020)

MINIMUM SEPARATION DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN POTABLE OR NONPOTABLE WELLS, RESERVOIRS, SPRINGS AND POSSIBLE CONTAMINANT SOURCES

Source	Distance in Feet
Animal Barn or Animal Barn Pen (measured to the nearest outside edge of the building or structure)	50
Animal Shelter (not including pet shelter or pet kennel housing 5 or fewer pets)	50
Animal Yard—Includes Calf Hutch (not including pet shelter or pet kennel housing 5 or fewer pets)	50
Cemetery Grave Sites	50
Cistern	8
Coal Storage (greater than 500 tons)	1,200
Culvert, stormwater	8
Ditch-Edge of	8
Drain-Sanitary building	8
Drillhole used for the underground placement of any waste, surface water, or any substance as defined in s. 160.01 (8), Stats.	100
Fertilizer or Pesticide Storage Tank (any size, surface or buried) (Nonpotable wells)	8
Fertilizer or Pesticide Storage Tank (any size, surface or buried) (Potable wells)	100
Fuel Oil Tank >1,500 gallons on surface or any size buried (including associated buried piping)	100
Fuel Oil Tank ≤ 1,500 gallons on surface or any size buried if serving single family residence (including associated piping)	25
Fertilizer or Pesticide (Dry) Storage Structure (storing more than 100 pounds in bags or bulk)	100
Gasoline or Other Petroleum or Liquid Product Tank — Buried (Does not apply to separation distance between Liquid Propane tanks and wells serving single family residence) (Including any associated piping)	100

TABLE A (use for wells constructed after July 1, 2020)

MINIMUM SEPARATION DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN POTABLE OR NONPOTABLE WELLS, RESERVOIRS, SPRINGS AND POSSIBLE CONTAMINANT SOURCES

Source	Distance in Feet
Gasoline or Other Petroleum or Liquid Product Tank — Surface (< 1,500 gallons, including any associated buried piping)	25
Gasoline or Other Petroleum or Liquid Product Tank — Surface (≥1,500 gallons, including any associated piping)	100
Glass Lined Feed Storage Facility (harvester-type silos)	50
Grease Interceptor (buried trap)	25
Heat Exchange Drillhole	10
Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility regulated by the department	1,200
Landfill (active, proposed or closed) (distance is measured to nearest fill area of closed landfill, if known; otherwise the distance is measured to the property line)	1,200
Lift Station (does not apply to residential lift stations, see Sanitary Building Sewer)	100
Liquid Propane (L.P.) gas tank (buried) and associated buried gas lines serving a single family residence	8
Liquid Waste Disposal System	250
Manure Hopper or Reception Tank—Liquid-Tight ¹	50
Manure Loading Area	50
Manure Stack-Temporary	150
Manure Storage Structure - earthen, excavated or non-liquid tight	250
Manure Storage Structure - fabricated, liquid-tight	100
Materials recovery facility that requires self-certification under NR 500 series	100
Milk house drain outlet	50
Nonpotable Well	8
Pet Waste Pit Disposal Unit	50
Pet animal shelter or kennel housing not more than 5 pets	8
Pet animal shelter or kennel housing more than 5 pets	50
Pit or alcove—Noncomplying	8
POWTS holding component (also known as a Holding Tank (Wastewater))	25
POWTS treatment component (Includes septic tanks, aerobic treatment units or filters)	25
POWTS dispersal component (also known as Soil Absorption Unit or Mound) < 12,000 gal/day (except for school wells) ²	50
POWTS dispersal component (also known as Soil Absorption Unit or Mound) < 12,000 gal/day (school wells) ²	200
POWTS dispersal component (also known as Soil Absorption Unit or Mound) ≥ 12,000 gal/day ²	250
Privy – pit privy (not watertight)	50
Privy – vault privy (watertight)	25
Quarry ³	500
Reservoir—Noncomplying	8
Salt or Deicing Material Storage Area, including structure and area surrounding where material is transferred to vehicles ⁴	250
Salvage yard or junkyard	250
Scrap Metal Processing Facility	100
SEWERS (Buried)	
—Manure Sewer	25
—Manure Sewer (> 6 inches in diameter)	50
—Sanitary Building Sewer	8
—Storm Sewer	8
—Sanitary Collector Sewer	25
Shoreline—Lake or Pond (measured to the regional high-water elevation), River or Stream (measured to the edge of the floodway) ⁵	25
Silage Storage, Earthen Trench or Pit	250
Silage Storage Structure (Fabricated liquid-tight) (In-ground or surface)	100
Silage Storage—Surface, Uncovered	100
Silage Storage in a Transfer Tube (Plastic)	50
Silo (Not including dry grain storage structures)	50

TABLE A (use for wells constructed after July 1, 2020)

MINIMUM SEPARATION DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN POTABLE OR NONPOTABLE WELLS, RESERVOIRS, SPRINGS AND POSSIBLE CONTAMINANT SOURCES

Source	Distance in Feet
Single application landspreading of petroleum-contaminated soil	250
Sludge Drying Bed, Liquid-tight	100
Sludge Drying Bed, Not Liquid-tight	250
Solid waste processing facility (including incinerators, air curtain destructors, woodburning facilities, composting facilities, and municipal solid waste combustors), solid waste storage facility or solid waste transfer facility that requires a license or approval under NR 500 series	250
Stormwater Detention Basin (measured to the edge)	25
Stormwater Infiltration basin or system, single- or two-family residential location, includes rain gardens, infiltration trenches and similar structures	8
Stormwater Infiltration basin or system, commercial, multifamily residential (> 2 family units) or industrial	100
Sump—Wastewater (watertight)	8
Sump—Wastewater (not watertight)	25
Swimming Pool (above or below ground) (measured from edge of water)	8
Vegetated Treatment Area (previously known as a filter strip)	50
Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Pipe	50
Wastewater Treatment Plant Structure, Conveyance or Treatment Unit	100

- 1) Separation distances to manure and manure containment structures are also defined in Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) technical standards and chs. NR 151, 243 and 812. The separation distances in each may be different. When installing a well on a farm, especially an AFO (animal feeding operation) consult with the owner, the technical standards, and all applicable administrative code to identify other well separation distances that may exist.
- 2) The separation distance from a POWTS dispersal component does not apply if the component has been abandoned in accordance with s. SPS 383.33.
- 3) See s. NR 812.12 (4) for well construction requirements for wells to be constructed within 500 feet of a quarry.
- 4) This category includes sand and salt mixtures if salt content of mixture is 5% or more.
- 5) The separation distance requirements for pond shorelines do not apply to synthetically lined decorative yard ponds located on residential lots.

Use Table E for all well (or contaminant sources) constructed before July 1, 2020

NR 812.42 STANDARDS FOR EXISTING INSTALLATIONS - (1) (a) LOCATION. The well location shall comply with the requirements in effect at the time the well was constructed as shown in [Table E](#), or to the location requirements of s. NR 812.08, whichever is less restrictive. However, if a contamination source was installed after the well was constructed, the well location shall conform to the requirements in effect at the time of installation of the contamination source.

This fact sheet and included tables do not replace or supersede specific code language for separation distance requirements, which are found in s. 812.08 and 812.42 Wis. Adm. Code

This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.

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