

# Well Casing Heights

A fact sheet for drillers and pump installers

The compliance of a well casing height depends on where it is located and when it was installed. Wells located in driveway ramps, pits, alcoves, pumphouses and basements can have different casing height requirements than wells installed outside or in a floodplain. The flow chart attached to this fact sheet provides a summary of the important installation date and location considerations for well casing height compliance.

## SOME IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT WELL CASING HEIGHTS:

- **INDOOR LOCATIONS**- Wells installed in basements on or before April 10<sup>th</sup> 1953 or walkout basements or pits and alcoves require a 6 inch minimum casing height.
- **PITS OR WALKOUT BASEMENTS**— Wells installed in pits built after April 10<sup>th</sup> 1953 or in a walkout basement after February 1, 1991 require a 12 inch minimum casing height. (Pits installed after April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1953 must meet the construction requirements of s. NR 812.36(2) and require plan approval by DNR prior to construction).
- **OUTDOORS** – Wells installed outdoors on or after February 1, 1991 require a 12 inch minimum casing height. Wells installed outdoors before February 1, 1991 require an 8 inch minimum casing height.
- **FLOODPLAINS** – The minimum casing height for a well installed in a floodplain is 24 inches above the floodplain elevation if installed on or after October 1, 1975 and 8 inches if installed prior.
- **DRIVEWAY RAMPS** – Wells installed in driveway ramps require a minimum of 4 inches of casing height above the original grade of the driveway, parking lot or sidewalk. Driveway ramps cannot be installed in a floodplain.
- **ABOVE GROUND PUMPHOUSES** – The poured concrete floor of an above ground pumphouse must be 4 inches above the surrounding grade. The well casing must be a minimum of 12 inches above the concrete floor level.

## PLEASE NOTE:

The casing height of a well is measured from the uppermost edge of the well casing excluding the well cap. It is measured parallel to the well casing direction directed downward from the uppermost casing edge to the closest ground or other surface (concrete slab or other flooring material) immediately surrounding the wellhead.

Landscaping activities can change measured casing heights. Raising or lowering the grade or adding raised bed flower boxes or other grading or flooring modifications done near the wellhead can create non-compliant well casing heights. Gardening or other activities that may introduce nitrate fertilizers or weed killers to the ground surface near your well head is not recommended.

When a home is constructed over an existing pit or alcove, the well is regulated as a basement well (PUB-DG-086 2017).

This fact sheet and flow chart do not replace or supersede specific code language about casing heights which is found in ss. NR 812.29(1), 812.29(5), 812.36(2)(e), 812.36(3)(b)3., 812.40(1), 812.42(2)(d), 812.42(7) Wis. Adm. Code. See the disclaimer language at the bottom of the flow chart on the next page.



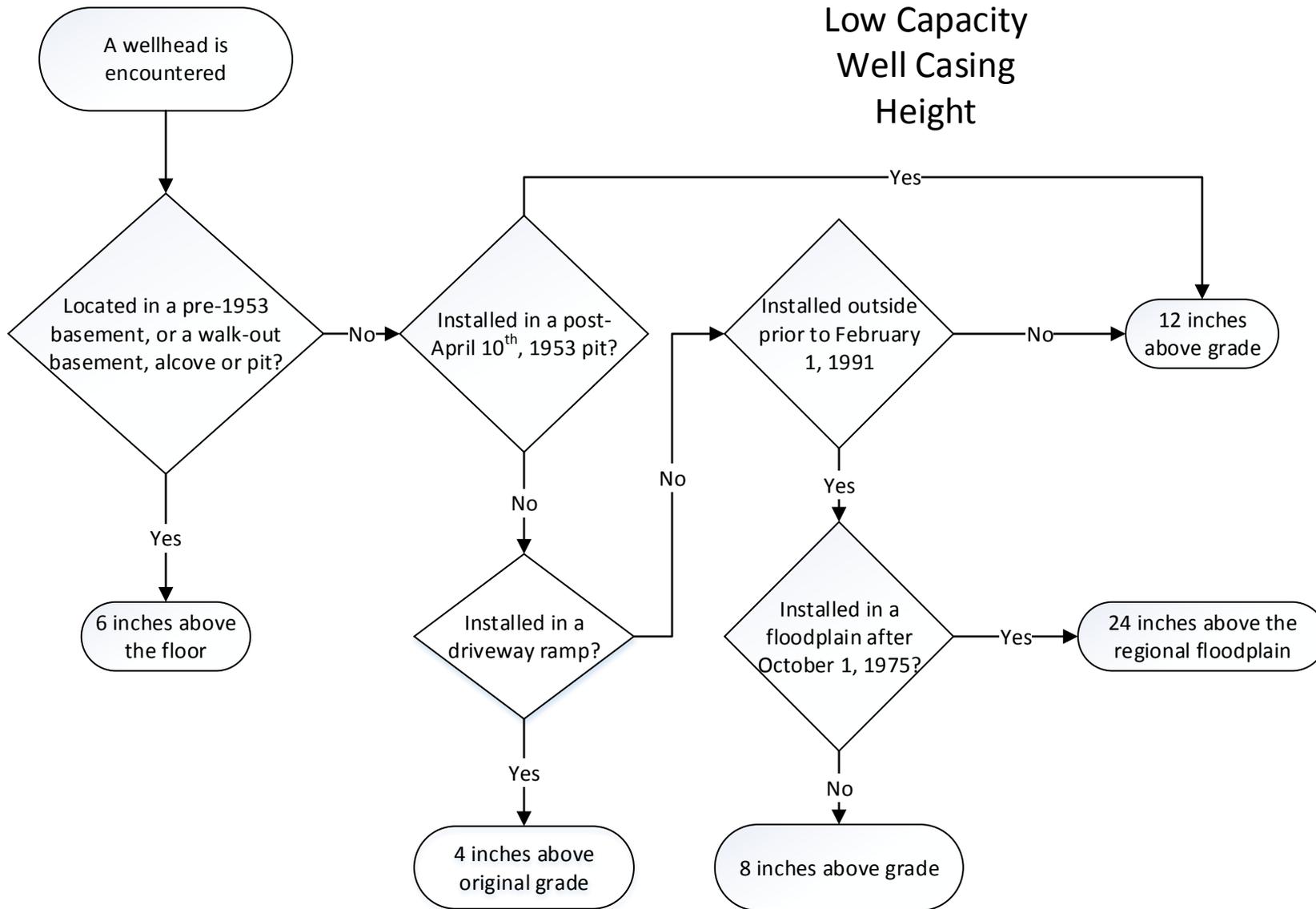
**DOES A WELL CASING HEIGHT COMPLY WITH ch. NR 812 Wis. Adm. Code?**  
Please check the flowchart on the back of this page.



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## Low Capacity Well Casing Height



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## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NOTICE OF FINAL GUIDANCE & CERTIFICATION

*Pursuant to ch. 227, Wis. Stats., the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has finalized and hereby certifies the following guidance document.*

### DOCUMENT ID

DG-19-0009

### DOCUMENT TITLE

PUB DG-089 - Well Casing Heights - a fact sheet for drillers and pump installers

### PROGRAM/BUREAU

Drinking Water and Groundwater Program

### STATUTORY AUTHORITY OR LEGAL CITATION

NR 812, Wis. Adm. Code

### DATE SENT TO LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU (FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)

12/2/2019

### DATE FINALIZED

1/21/2020

### DNR CERTIFICATION

*I have reviewed this guidance document or proposed guidance document and I certify that it complies with sections 227.10 and 227.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is not explicitly required or explicitly permitted by a statute or a rule that has been lawfully promulgated. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is more restrictive than a standard, requirement, or threshold contained in the Wisconsin Statutes.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steve' followed by a stylized surname.

1/22/2020

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Signature

Date