

New Wells: Exempt

A well is considered exempt from permitting, fee payment, metering and reporting if it meets the following criteria:

- Used solely for domestic use, livestock use, poultry use, or agricultural use
- Has a maximum designed production capacity of 17.36 gallons per minute or less used for any purpose of use other than public water supply

Any new well must be registered with the District and comply with the two acre minimum tract size and well spacing requirements.

The well owner will need to submit a well registration form and pay the non-refundable \$500 registration fee.

Exempt wells are not required to pay water use fees. However, if exempt well status is withdrawn, the District may assess fees and in accordance with the District Rules.

New Wells: Replacement Wells

A well cannot be replaced without prior authorization from the District. A replacement well must:

- Be within 50 feet of the location of the well being replaced
- Be completed and screened at an equal or greater depth than the well being replaced
- Not be larger in designed production capacity than the well and pump being replaced, unless the maximum designed production capacity is 17.36 gpm or less
- Immediately upon commencing operation of the replacement well, the well owner will cease all production from the well being replaced and will begin efforts to plug the well being replaced in compliance with the well plugging guidelines set forth in the Texas Water Well Drillers and Pump Installers Administrative Rules.

New Wells: Non-Exempt

Beginning January 1, 2019, you must apply for and obtain an Operating Permit prior to drilling or operating a new, non-exempt well. Non-exempt wells are used for purposes other than domestic, livestock, poultry or agricultural use.

The well owner will need to submit a well registration form, a \$500 non-refundable registration fee, and an application for an Operating Permit with a fee of \$1,000 per well. All permits must be renewed every 5 years with a \$150 per well fee.

Contact Us

Phone: 817-556-2299

Fax: 817-556-2305

208 Kimberly Dr
Cleburne, TX 76031

www.prairielandsgcd.org



Well Ownership in Johnson, Hill, Ellis and Somervell Counties

Transfer of Well Ownership

Transfer of well ownership must be completed within 90 days after the date of a change in ownership of a registered exempt well.

How to Transfer a Registered Well

Complete a transfer of well ownership form available on the District website and submit to the District by fax, email or in person.

What if the Well Isn't Registered?

If the well was drilled before April 1, 2011 and is not registered with the District, then registration is optional, but encouraged. If the well is drilled on or after April 1, 2011, it must be registered with the District, regardless of size, capacity or type of use. Wells drilled after after May 15, 2017 must be located on a minimum tract size of two acres.

What does the District do with the Registration Information?

State law requires the District to collect information about the wells in its jurisdiction. The District must determine how much water is needed and being used by Johnson, Hill, Ellis and Somervell Counties, so it can ensure District constituents have sufficient water for now, as well as estimate the future needs based on projected growth.

Why is Well Registration Important?

The owner of an exempt well drilled before April 1, 2011 may elect to register the well with the District to provide evidence that the well existed before the adoption of certain rules by the District. This could exempt the well from the requirement to comply with some well location, minimum tract size, or spacing requirements of the District.

Registering the well also enables protection of the owner's well against encroachment from new wells through the District's well spacing requirements, and any other entitlements that existing wells may receive under District rules. The District can't consider and protect your water needs if we don't know about your well.

What if a Well Needs to be Drilled?

District rules require all new wells to register with the District prior to drilling. Oftentimes, a drilling company will register the well on your behalf but the responsibility falls on the landowner. Check with your driller. In addition, all new wells must comply with, or obtain a variance for, the following rules:

For all wells, the property must be at least 2 acres and the well must be drilled at least 50 feet from the nearest property line. Information on new wells can be found on the opposite side of this handout.

What if a Well Owner Chooses to No Longer Use a Well?

A well determined to no longer be operational is required to be capped or plugged by a licensed well driller in accordance with the specifications listed in the Texas Administrative Code and in compliance with District rules and any incorporated city ordinances.

Can a Homeowner Harvest Rainwater?

Rainwater harvesting is an innovative alternative water supply approach anyone can use. Rainwater harvesting captures, diverts, and stores rainwater for later use.

Texas has several laws supporting rainwater harvesting. Texas Property Code prevents a homeowner's association from prohibiting the use of rainwater harvesting systems (Texas Property Code §202.007).

The Texas Legislature allows the exemption of part or all of the assessed value of the property on which approved water conservation initiatives, such as rainwater harvesting, are made. Individuals planning to install rainwater harvesting systems should check with their county appraisal districts for guidance on exemption from county property taxes. Also, Texas Tax Code exempts rainwater harvesting supplies from state sales tax.