

WHAT IS A WELL?

In the Town of Greenwich, a significant number of properties obtain their drinking water from potable wells. “Engineered holes in the ground”, wells are constructed by state licensed well drillers that access water from cracks and pores in the bedrock. A typical well is 6 to 9 inches in diameter and is drilled down into the bedrock 200 to 700 feet; penetrating sand, gravel, clay and solid rock formations. As the well is drilled, a steel casing is set into the bedrock (See Figure 1).

When the well driller hits a source of water, the drilling stops and a submersible pump is placed down the steel casing to the bottom of the well. This pump then provides water to local homes and businesses. Handling construction material and pump equipment may introduce bacteria into a well casing, so newly drilled or recently repaired wells should be disinfected with chlorine. The procedure of disinfecting the well should be done by a licensed well driller.

Licensed well drillers are required to apply to the Greenwich Department of Health for a permit to drill a well. Once well construction is completed, the driller submits a completion report which indicates the exact location, depth, and yield of the well. The well’s yield is the amount (in gallons per minute) of water that the well produces; the higher the yield, the more water that is available. This data is kept on file in the Environmental Services Division of the Greenwich Department of Health for most wells drilled as of the mid-1960’s.

