

How does Summer affect your well? Drought and low well water conditions...



At the beginning of the year 41% of Connecticut was in extreme drought conditions with the rest of the state in slightly less severe conditions. With the recent rain, things are looking better but some of the state was recently still considered to be abnormally dry. While water conservation is always a good idea, it becomes particularly important heading into summer when water consumption is up and groundwater levels fall. If you rely on a well for your water it is even more critical to pay attention to the drought conditions. Individual wells tap groundwater aquifers that cannot easily be seen or monitored. The invisible nature of groundwater leads to an uneasy feeling among homeowners relying on wells that their water supply could dry up without warning during a drought. The natural fluctuation of groundwater levels tends to be most pronounced in shallow wells. As a result, shallow wells are usually more susceptible to drought than deeper wells. Although deeper wells may be slower to suffer from drought conditions, they may also take longer to recover after a drought has occurred.

There are a number of reasons why a well may stop providing water. The most frequent cause is a malfunctioning or worn-out pump. Electrical problems such as a broken wire or malfunctioning electrical switch at the pressure tank may also cause a loss of water. A running toilet or open outside spigot can cause low well conditions. Water quality problems like iron bacteria and sediment may clog the well and severely restrict water flow. *Give Water-Flo a call to determine the exact cause if you experience a problem.*

Under persistent dry weather conditions, the water level in your well may drop below the submersible pump, causing a loss of water. In some cases, the water

level may only temporarily drop below the pump such as during showers or doing laundry. If this is the case, you may be able to continue using the well by initiating emergency water conservation measures and using water only for essential purposes.

If the water level permanently drops below the submersible pump, it may be possible to lower the submersible pump within the existing well. In most cases this will only provide a short-term solution to the problem. More permanent solutions require either deepening the existing well, hydro-fracking or drilling a new well. Be aware that deepening an existing well may not increase the well yield and could produce water of different quality.

Monitor drought conditions at <https://www.drought.gov/drought/connecticut> and implement water conservation strategies that may prevent your well from going dry.

Ask The Expert

Questions about your water or air quality? Here is your forum... Submit questions for next month and follow us on [FaceBook!](#)



Q: How can I tell where the water level is in my drilled well?

A: There is no precise way to tell the water level in a drilled well without sophisticated equipment; however, you can get a rough idea. Here are the simple steps:

- ***Turn off the power to the submersible pump.***
- ***Remove the cap from the well.***
- ***Move the wires out of the way and drop a 1/2" stone (do not use anything larger) or an ice cube down the well and time how many seconds it takes before you hear a splash. (You will have to put your ear to the top of the well.) If you do not hear a splash do it again until you do.***

It is approximately 17-20 feet per second as the stone bounces around during free-fall. Therefore, a stone that takes 10 seconds to hit water indicates the water level is around 170 - 200 feet down. There are times you can hear the stone drop for over 30 seconds and this constitutes a very deep well and a very low water condition. Sometimes you can see the reflection of the water when you remove the cap. This is a good sign of a high water level.

I do not recommend lowering anything into the well to measure the water level. There are many components to a pump installation and it is not uncommon for a lowered device to get snagged.

More tips and answers to your questions can be found at our website: www.waterflo.com

For 25 years, we've had the privilege of being an integral part of your family's health & home.

Thank you!



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