



DOMESTIC WELLS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is a permit required to drill a domestic well within the State of Nevada?

- **Answer:** No. Domestic wells are the only type of water well exempt from the Division of Water Resources' permitting process pursuant to NRS 534.080 and NRS 534.180. Under NRS 534.013, domestic use is defined as uses associated with culinary and household purposes directly related to a single-family dwelling, including, without limitation, the watering of a family garden and lawn and the watering of livestock and any other domestic animals or household pets, if the amount of water drawn does not exceed two acre-feet annually (about 651,700 gallons per year).

Q: When is the drilling of a domestic well prohibited?

- **Answer:** Generally, a domestic well cannot be drilled if the subject parcel of land can be physically and legally supplied water from a public water supply. Contact NDWR if specific guidance is needed.

Q: Can I have two or more homes served by a single domestic well?

- **Answer:** No. Except for the provision described in NRS 534.185, domestic use (as defined in NRS 534.013) is very specific in that the use is limited to one single-family dwelling. Multiple dwellings are considered a quasi-municipal use and thus require a permit. A quasi-municipal well is often times referred to as a community well. However, there is a provision in NRS 534.180(4) which allows for the use of a domestic well for an auxiliary dwelling (often referred to as a “mother-in-law quarters”) if it is permitted by local ordinance. The owner of the well must obtain approval for that use or purpose from the local governing body or planning commission, install a water meter capable of measuring the total withdrawal of water from the well, and ensure the total withdrawal of water from the well does not exceed 2 acre-feet per year.

Q: Can I have more than one home on the same parcel of land?

- **Answer:** The number of homes on the same parcel is a local government decision. There are counties within Nevada that allow more than one livable structure on the same parcel -check with the local governing body. However, if more than one structure is allowed on the same parcel, a domestic well can still only serve one dwelling, which requires that the number of domestic wells equal the number of dwellings being served (see the answer to “Can I have two or more homes served by a single domestic well?” for more information). Septic tank concentration and well separation must be considered and must comply with local or state health laws.