



## 1. Sealing a Well:

- **Purpose:** Properly sealing a well is essential to prevent safety, health, and environmental risks. Abandoned or unused wells pose a great threat to the safety and quality of groundwater drinking water supplies. An unused well provides a direct path for contaminants and pollutants to the underground aquifers that supply working wells. [3]
- **Why Seal?:**
  - **Physical Safety:** An **unused well** can be dangerous. Children or small animals might accidentally fall into an unprotected, open well. Accidents can also occur if equipment is driven over a crumbling well or well pit.
  - **Health and Environment:** An unused well can act like a drain, allowing surface water runoff, contaminated water, or improperly disposed waste to directly enter drinking water sources. This threatens the water quality for everyone, including city water wells and neighboring wells.
  - **Legal Responsibilities:** If an old well on your property becomes a conduit for contaminants reaching a drinking water source for neighbors or your city, you could face legal liability.
- **How to Find a Well:**
  - **Indoors:** Look for glass block or concrete patches in exterior steps, pipes sticking up from the basement floor, or concrete patches where the well was located.
  - **Outdoors:** Observe low spots, sunken areas, metal/wood/concrete covers, windmills, old sheds, or well houses. Dug wells appear as rings made of concrete, tile, bricks, or rocks.
- **Annual Water Testing:** It's recommended that homeowners test their water annually to ensure its quality [1].
- **Well Abandonment Grant:** The well abandonment grant program provides funding assistance to properly fill and seal abandoned or unused private wells. [2]

1. [SEALING WELL CASING | American Ground Water Trust](#)
2. [Well Abandonment Grants | | Wisconsin DNR](#)
3. [Well filling and sealing | | Wisconsin DNR](#)