

**FERRY COUNTY BUILDING DEPARTMENT  
WATER SUPPLY INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR  
BUILDING PERMITS**

**PUBLIC / COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM:**

A public or community water system is any water system that serves more than one dwelling unit or a group of people. All public water systems must be approved by the Washington Department of Health.

To get a building permit, you must provide a letter or form from the water system owner or operator stating that the system is capable of providing water and will provide it to you. Be sure the letter or form includes the water system's identification number assigned by the Washington Department of Health. If you have questions about a system, you can contact the Washington Department of Health at (509) 456-3115.

**PRIVATE / INDIVIDUAL WATER SYSTEM:**

A private water system is a system that serves only one house or dwelling unit. To get a building permit, you will need to provide information on the type of source, quantity and quality of the system.

**SOURCE** - From a health standpoint, a drilled well is preferable for source protection and reliability. You should note that because they are prone to a variety of contaminants, surface waters will generally not be acceptable without extensive treatment.

The location of a water source, even with a drilled well, is an important consideration that can have a major effect on the quality of your water. For that reason, the well or spring should meet these minimum standards for location.

**THE FOLLOWING IS ONLY ADVISORY**

A radius of at least 100 feet around your well or springs should be under your ownership to prevent sources of contamination (sewage systems, stockyards, fuel tanks, etc.) from being located too close. If you do not own the 100 foot radius, you should have an easement from the owner that would not allow sources of contamination within the protective area.

Wells and springs should not be located in areas where surface water may pond or flow around it or that are prone to flooding.

Wells or springs should not be located in areas where there are known or suspected quantity or quality problems or too close to potential sources of contamination such as old mine tailings ponds, stock yards, landfills or too close to a surface water.