

**WAC 173-160-121 What should I know about drilling wells that require water right permits?** (1) Unless a groundwater withdrawal is exempt from the permit requirements under RCW 90.44.050, a well cannot be drilled without the well owner first obtaining a water right permit from the department authorizing the use of water from the well.

(2) The licensed operator must have a copy of the water right permit or certificate on site at all times.

(3) Every well that requires a permit shall be constructed to meet the provisions of that permit. Provisions may include:

(a) Limitations on zones of completion.

(b) Special sealing requirements.

(c) Special casing and liner requirements.

(d) Other specific construction and testing details.

(4) As provided in WAC 173-548-050, no water well may be constructed for any purpose in subbasins closed in the Methow water resources regulation:

(a) Including those exempted from permitting under RCW 90.44.050;

(b) Unless written approval has been obtained from the department prior to beginning well construction.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.104 RCW. WSR 09-01-125 (Order 08-10), § 173-160-121, filed 12/19/08, effective 1/19/09. Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.104 RCW and RCW 43.21A.080. WSR 98-08-032 (Order 97-08), § 173-160-121, filed 3/23/98, effective 4/23/98.]