

Key Changes to Ohio Administrative Code 3701- 28-17

“Procedures for the sealing of private water
systems”

Ohio Department of Health



Converting test wells and dry holes

- (A) Minimum requirements for test wells being converted and not sealed
 - Well casing
 - Grout
 - Cap
- (C) Allows dry holes to be converted to geothermal systems if not sealed
 - shall meet the minimum well construction standards of this rule;

All PWS not just wells

- (B) Establishes that all private water systems not providing the primary source of water shall be sealed or be maintained in strict compliance to the rules.

Exceptions to sealing

- (D) Exceptions to sealing a replaced private water system not supplying the primary source of water:
 - Addition to demonstrate
 - Ability to be tested
 - Operational pump
 - One or more of the following:
 - well log,
 - borehole video,
 - dye test with water sample,
 - or assessment by a registered pws contractor or the boh

Exceptions to sealing

- (D) Exceptions to sealing a replaced private water system:
 - When connecting to public water
 - Demonstrate backflow prevention as per OAC 3745-95

Sealing materials & Sealing Requirements

- (H) – As approved in OAC 3701-28-09
- (I) Well Sealing Requirements
 - Removal of all liners unless attached;
 - If casing or liner left in place, must ensure that grout is able to seal off all of the annular space;
 - Use of sand, gravel, or fire clay placement may be used only if borehole conditions and geologic formations are known
 - Can only be used from bottom of well to top of aquifer or to 25 feet whichever come first.

Sealing Requirements (cont.)

- (I) Well Sealing Requirements
 - If aquifer location is unknown, then concrete, or bentonite (coarse grade or pelletized) must be used;
 - No mixing of aquifers ensured by sealing process;
 - When using coarse-grade or pelletized bentonite, use no less than 80% of the total volume of the space
 - When dry pouring, coarse-grade or pelletized bentonite must be hydrated in accordance to the manufacturer's requirements

Sealing Requirements (cont.)

- (I) Well Sealing Requirements
 - If casing is terminated in a cement floor or structure, casing can be cut level with cement floor or structure;
 - Pits must be collapsed and all drains removed;

Sealing dug wells & bucket augered wells

- Separate and more specific requirements for sealing dug wells and bucket augered wells

Fractures, cavernous formations or mine shafts > 1 ft in thickness

- Where fractures, cavernous formations, or mine shafts are > 25 ft from the ground surface
 - Boreholes or wells below fractured zones shall be sealed in accordance with rule
 - A plug consisting of a packer, shale basket, or similar device installed above the fracture or cavernous formation and grout placed from the plug to the ground surface
 - Or the intersection of the borehole and fracture may be filled with clean disinfected gravel
 - or intersection of the borehole and fracture can be left open
 - and the remainder of the borehole sealed to the surface.