

What is the Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund?

The Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund was authorized through the passage of HB 2145 to provide financial assistance to permanently abandon, repair, or replace a water well used for household purposes. The Department will accept applications from low-to-moderate income households impacted with domestic wells that are impacted by drought or wildfire. These impacted households are prioritized based on meeting urgent public health needs and direction from the Oregon Legislature. The Department anticipates a broader set of wells will be eligible for funding in the future.

Funding

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) will reimburse homeowners approved for funding for 100% of the eligible costs associated with the work to repair, replace, or abandon their eligible well up to the funding limit of \$40,000 per applicant. The homeowner will be responsible for any costs incurred that are identified as ineligible costs and costs above the funding limit.

Eligible Costs

- Costs including work and materials associated with and necessary to permanently abandoning eligible wells in accordance with [690-210](#), [690-215](#), and [690-220](#)
- [OWRD Start Card fee](#)
- [OWRD Groundwater use registration fee](#)
- Costs including work and materials associated with and necessary to abandon, repair or replace eligible wells and include:
 - Mobilization
 - Perforating and/or removing casing
 - Seal material to abandon well
 - Drilling
 - Casing
 - Annular seal
 - Liner
 - Storage tank
 - Pressure tank
 - Pump
 - Plumbing necessary to connect the well head to the residence
 - Pitless adapters
 - Electrical wiring necessary to connect the pump to a power source
 - In the case of a well affected by wildfire, a confirmed previously existing water treatment system when the water treatment system was destroyed by wildfire

Ineligible Costs

Costs **not** eligible include but are not limited to:

- Road construction expenses
- Water witching or water dousing or any other method to predict water production
- Fencing
- Homeowner labor
- Landscaping costs
- Ongoing maintenance of any kind
- Water treatment systems when not destroyed by wildfire
- Interior residential electrical wiring
- Electrical wiring to out-buildings or non-residential structures
- Plumbing to out-buildings or non-residential structures, to landscaping, or within the residence

Well Constructor Requirements

- ✓ The well constructor holds a current Water Well Constructor's License with a water supply well endorsement issued in accordance with ORS 537.747(3).
- ✓ The well constructor shall be bonded in accordance with 537.753. (1) or shall have in effect a surety bond or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by an insured institution, as defined in ORS 706.008, running to the State of Oregon of a minimum amount of \$20,000.
- ✓ All well construction work shall be conducted in accordance with Oregon well construction standards (OAR 690-200 through 690-240) to be eligible for funding.
- ✓ Each person required to possess a license under ORS 537.747 who has entered into a contract to construct, alter, abandon or convert a well or cause a well to be constructed, altered, abandoned or converted shall, before beginning work on the well, submit a report to the Department.
- ✓ The well constructor shall provide well logs and construction details of the abandoned, repaired or replaced well after well work is complete and before OWRD conducts a Post-Inspection.
- ✓ The replacement well shall be constructed in a manner consistent with the original affected well's diameter and shall not exceed the diameter of the original affected well. In cases where the original well is less than six inches, the replacement well may exceed the original affected well's diameter but shall not exceed six inches.



Questions?

Visit:

<https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/GWWL/WARRF/Pages/default.aspx>

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