

## **What should I be aware of when hiring a contractor to dig a well?**

*When you'd like to have a well dug, the first thing to check is the licensure of the potential well driller. Ask the driller for references and also ask some of your neighbors that have wells. It is also useful to call a few pump companies in your area that do not drill wells, and ask them who does a good job. Pump technicians see lots of wells and how a well is drilled determines the well's productivity and impacts the water quality of the well. Some drillers think that since you can't see what's down the hole, they'll put sub-standard materials or scrimp on the details. The results show up when the pump is installed or when a camera is sent down to find out why a well is behaving badly. Often the cheapest well drillers end up costing the most because they have lots of "extras" that aren't included in quoted price and results are substandard.*

*Once you've selected a well driller, ask them for a copy of the drilling permit that many counties require before drilling commences. Unscrupulous drillers often do not follow the permitting process, this simple request can quickly weed the less desirable contractors out and save you the hassle of a well drilled too close to your sewer, etc...*

*Be careful of well drillers that put pumps in. While the idea at first seems like a very efficient and simple solution, it has its downside. The primary downside is that well drillers that put in pumps often do not desire other contractors to see/review the substandard work that has been done. By installing the pump themselves they avoid any and all peer review which may bring the quality and competence of their work into question.*