

My well is dry, what do I do?

A dry well, in most cases, is a misnomer. Wells that go "dry" are not actually without water, usually they are producing less water than they originally produced which is inadequate for the demand for water. In addition, the normal pattern over time is that demand for water typically increases as pools, landscaping, gardens are added or household additions are made. This can cause a well that was once sufficient to meet lower demands, to be inadequate when increased demands are placed on it.

Lowered production from the well can be due to a couple of different causes:

1. Sustained periods of drought can cause the water table to drop. A dropping aquifer is indicated by a well maintaining a low water level in your well when the pump has been shut down for several days. There is very little one can do about the aquifer level dropping other than drilling a new well since deepening wells is not practical. It may be possible to install your well pump lower in the well if the well is deep enough to do so.

2. Your well can also have reduced production if it becomes plugged with minerals and scale. A plugged well is indicated by the water level dropping very quickly after pumping and slowly recovering after the pump is shut down. These minerals can be dissolved and flushed out via a professional cleaning or well rehabilitation. OPS has conducted many successful well rehabilitations where yields have been restored to acceptable operating levels.

Storage tanks are a frequent solution to a low yield well. A storage tank and booster pump can be installed so that water can be accumulated over longer periods of time and meet high short term demands. For example, a well that produces 1 GPM would be hard to run a house off of when a single shower head requires 2.5 GPM. That same well can be used to fill 2500 gallon storage tank over several days and a booster pump installed to supply 15 GPM. Since a shower only lasts for 10 minutes, there is plenty of accumulated water for this and other household needs.