

## FAQ

**Q: Do I need to have a well driller's license to drill my own water well?**

A: Yes. Every water well drilled in the state of Nevada must be drilled by a licensed Nevada well driller pursuant to NRS 534.160.

**Q: What is the purpose of a water right relinquishment?**

A: A "relinquishment" of a water right is for the purpose of offsetting the water withdrawn from a domestic well to a home, or for the dedication of water to newly created lots.

**Q: Can I get a domestic water well drilled if I'm in the area of a municipality?**

A: It depends. If you're in a municipality's service area, the State Engineer will need a letter from that municipality stating the distance the parcel is from their water lines and whether they'll be requiring you to hook-up.

**Q: Can I get a domestic water well drilled if my lot is smaller than an acre?**

A: It depends. All domestic water wells drilled on a parcel less than an acre are required to get approval from the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health. This is to ensure the water well is drilled a sufficient distance from a septic system.

## Contact Us

### Carson City Office (Main Office)

901 S. Stewart St., Suite 2002  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Office Phone: (775) 684-2800  
Office Fax: (775) 684-2811  
Office Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

### Las Vegas Office

400 Shadow Lane, Suite 201  
Las Vegas, NV 89106  
Office Phone: (702) 486-2770  
Office Fax: (702) 486-2781  
Office Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

### Elko Office

1250 Lamoille Hwy, Suite 1047  
Elko, NV 89801  
Office Phone: (775) 753-3553  
Office Fax: (775) 753-9483  
Office Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 am-12:00 pm,  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Nevada Division  
of  
Water Resources  
A guide to water wells in Nevada



NEVADA DIVISION  
OF WATER RESOURCES





## Important Statutes and Regulations

- NRS 533 – Adjudication of Vested Water Rights; Appropriation of Public Waters
- NRS 534 – Underground Water and Wells
- NAC 534 – Regulations for Water Well and Related Drilling

## The Process

For the water well owner, the process begins and ends with a phone call to a licensed Nevada well driller. If there is no water right involved, the well driller will usually take it from there. There's a little more legwork required for water wells that have or need a water right, but we'll get into that later.

For domestic wells—and pluggings in general—the process is as follows:

- Contact a licensed Nevada well driller
- The well driller will submit a Notice of Intent with the Nevada Division of Water Resources. The Notice of Intent lists important information, such as: Owner, Location, Type of Well, Size of Well, as well as which well driller is responsible for the project.
- After the Notice of Intent is reviewed and approved, the well driller will be free to complete the project.

## Do I Need a Water Right?

This is easily the most important question to ask yourself when having a water well drilled. You might be thinking, what water wells, or uses of water wells, require a water right? This question is more easily answered by explaining which wells DON'T require a water right. Per NRS 534.180, domestic water wells do not require a water right if the water usage does not exceed 2 acre-feet per year.

So, what is a domestic well and what is domestic use?

“Domestic use” or “domestic purposes” extends to culinary and household purposes directly related to:

1. A single-family dwelling; and
2. An accessory dwelling unit for a single-family dwelling if provided for in an applicable local ordinance.

This above definition includes regular living uses, such as watering a lawn and providing for a pet.

The above definition does **not** include the irrigating of hemp or any other crop outside the bounds of a personal garden. Nor does it include the supplying of water to an office or home-operated business.

If your water use doesn't fit within the above definition, you should anticipate needing a water right.