

What Are the Statewide Water Well Databases ?

More than one million water wells have been dug or drilled in Texas. In addition to being used for domestic (i.e., household) and public water supply, water wells also support a variety of other purposes including but not limited to:

- Irrigation;
- Industrial;
- Stock (for livestock);
- Test Wells (for sampling groundwater quality or quantity, or exploring for soil or groundwater contaminants);
- Rig Supply (for drilling and completion of oil and gas wells);
- Hydraulic fracturing (or “fracing” – using a pressurized fluid to start and then spread a fracture in a rock layer in order to release oil or gas); and,
- De-watering, Injection, and Monitoring (DIM) applications, including Environmental Soil Borings, Extraction (for removing groundwater contaminants), and Closed-Loop Geothermal systems.

A water well report (<http://www.license.state.tx.us/wwd/wwd001.pdf>) typically includes the following information:

- Owner’s name and address;
- Physical location of the well (address, lat/long, and grid number);
- Well type;
- Drilling date;
- Geologic description of the well;
- Well construction details (e.g., diameter, depth, drilling method, and completion data);
- Pump type and depth (if available);
- Water quantity and quality test data and water level; and,
- Driller’s name, address, and license number.

Five searchable, online water well databases provide a wealth of data on the water wells that exist in Texas:

- The joint Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) Submitted Drillers Reports (SDR) Database (<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/data/drillersdb.asp>) includes over 270,000 reports submitted by water well drillers since 2001.

- For wells drilled as early as 1820, the TWDB Groundwater Data Viewer (<http://www2.twdb.texas.gov/apps/WaterDataInteractive/GroundWaterDataViewer>) includes approximately 139,000 water well reports in the TWDB Groundwater Database. Data from these wells, and the wells in the joint TWDB/TDLR System, can be viewed in an interactive map application.
 - Viewer Help for this system is available at <http://www2.twdb.texas.gov/apps/waterdatainteractive/Content/help.pdf>.
- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Water Well Report Viewer (<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/waterwellview.html>) allows users to geographically locate and view copies of at least one million scanned water well reports submitted by drillers since 1960.
 - A User Guide for this system is available at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/gis/docs/wrvr_userguide.pdf.
- For public drinking water sources, the TCEQ Source Water Assessment Viewer (<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/swaview>) displays not only water wells and surface water intakes, but also provides information such as well depth and drilling date.
 - A User Guide for this system is available at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/gis/docs/swav_userguide.pdf.
- The TCEQ Texas Drinking Water Watch (<http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>) displays detailed information on public water systems, including their drinking water sources, and users can obtain information such as drilling date and pumping rate for the public drinking water wells.
 - Search Parameters for this system are available at http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/Help/html_Public_Water_Supply_Systems_Search_Parameters.htm.

Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) also maintain records and registrations for water wells specific to their jurisdictions – contact your local GCD for assistance in obtaining up-to-date information on water levels, pump levels, and any recent changes made to your water well. Most GCDs are members of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, <http://www.texasgroundwater.org/> – you can click on “Membership/Current Members/District” to get specific GCD contact information. A local licensed water well driller may also be familiar with nearby water wells.

In addition, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Water Information System (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>) has historical records from water wells across the country and this online database can be searched for detailed location, depth, aquifer, water level, and water quality information for selected water wells in Texas.

References:

- TDLR Well Report form 001, <http://www.license.state.tx.us/wwd/wwd001.pdf>
- TDLR Driller's Report Frequently Asked Questions, <http://texaswellreports.twdb.texas.gov/drillers-new/faq.asp>
- TCEQ GCD webpage, <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/groundwater/districts.html> – a map of Texas GCDs, summary description of GCDs, and GCD contact list are available
- Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, <http://www.texasgroundwater.org/> – click on “Membership/Current Members/District” to get specific GCD contact information
- USGS National Water Information System, <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/>:
 - Click on the “Mapper” button in the bottom left corner of the webpage
 - Select Texas from the “Zoom to:” dropdown menu; more specific location information can also be added, if desired
 - Un-check “Surface-Water Sites” and check “Groundwater Sites” in the left hand column
 - Sites are clickable when the Zoom level is 11 or greater; click on a site to get detailed information about the water well
- Additional USGS resources include the Groundwater Information Pages (<http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/>), Groundwater Data for the Nation (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/gw>), and Groundwater Watch (<http://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/>)

For additional Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to groundwater quantity, groundwater quality, septic systems, water wells, administrative entities, and publications, visit the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee's (TGPC's) FAQ webpage at <http://tgpc.state.tx.us/frequently-asked-questions-faqs/>.