



When is Connection to the Swan Creek Water District's Public Waterline Required? Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Question:** I am building a new house, I have access to the Swan Creek Water District public waterline, will I be required to connect to the public waterline?

Answer: YES. The Swan Creek Water District has a regulation (ordinance) that requires connection of new construction to the public waterline.

The ordinance states, "The owner of any real property located within the Swan Creek Water District shall be required to connect any newly constructed structure to the District's water system where such system is available to such property, pursuant to O.R.C. (Ohio Revised Code) 6119.06(z), so as to protect the health and property of persons in the District."
- 2. Question:** I have an existing house with access to the public waterline. Can I replace my well with another well?

Answer: YES. However, there are requirements. The new well must comply with the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). Currently (2015), the OAC requires any well that is less than 25 feet deep to have additional treatment of the water. At no time, can a well be less than 10 feet deep.

 - Wells between 15 feet and 10 feet deep are required to have continuous disinfection and cyst filtration.
 - Wells between 15 feet and 25 feet deep are required to have continuous disinfection or upon installation, two water samples must be collected and tested for total coliform bacteria 6 months apart. In addition, the well must be located at a distance that is twice that of the isolation distances listed in O.A.C. (Ohio Administration Code) 3701-28 from all sources of contamination listed. For example, a well that is 26 ft. deep is required to be located a minimum of 50 feet from the sewage treatment system per OAC. A well that is between 15 feet and 25 feet deep and the property owner does not install continuous disinfection, must be located a minimum of 100 ft. from the sewage treatment system.
- 3. Question:** I am building a **new** house on a property where a house stood previously and there is an existing well. I have access to the public waterline; will I be required to connect to the public waterline?

Answer: YES. You are required to connect to the public waterline. See question and answer #1 above.



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4. Question: If I decide to connect to a public waterline, can I continue to use my well also?

Answer: The continued use of a well after connecting your home to a public waterline is discouraged. However, if you are able to pass inspection by the public waterline inspector and assure the well is not connected to the plumbing system containing the public waterline, the well may continue to be used for outside use only (completely separate plumbing) such as watering gardens, washing cars, etc.

5. Question: Am I required to connect to a public waterline if I do not know where my well is located?

Answer: Not knowing where your well is located will not cause you to be required to connect to a public waterline. However, you should take steps to locate the well and obtain an alteration permit from the health department to extend the top of the well (casing) above the ground surface. Knowing the well location will allow you to assure it is located a safe distance from sources of contamination such as your sewage treatment system (septic tank and drain field).

6. Question: If my well water is tested and found to contain bacteria or other unsafe contaminants, will I be required to connect to the waterline (if a waterline is accessible to my property)?

Answer: In most cases the answer is no. One unsafe water sample result will not cause the well to be determined as unsafe. More information is needed. Is the well safely constructed and located (isolated from sources of contamination such as sewage treatment systems)? If disinfecting the well and/or making repairs to the well or piping enable the well to produce a safe sample the property owner may choose to continue using the well. However, if the well is determined to be unsafe and unable to be made safe in compliance with state regulations, the Board of Health will require that a safe water supply be established. This may mean connecting to the waterline or installing a new well or hauled water tank that complies with O.R.C. 3701-28.

7. Question: I am connected to the public waterline. Can I disconnect from the public water line and reconnect to the existing well on my property?

Answer: No, the Swan Creek Water District has a regulation that prohibits a property owner from disconnecting and using a well after connecting to the public water line.

This document is a guide. Each situation has many variables that must be considered when providing accurate answers to the questions raised. Contact the Fulton County Health Department (Phone: 419-337-0914) and the Swan Creek Water District Board (Phone: 419-822-3656) to clarify the information provided and to discuss further questions you may have.