



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

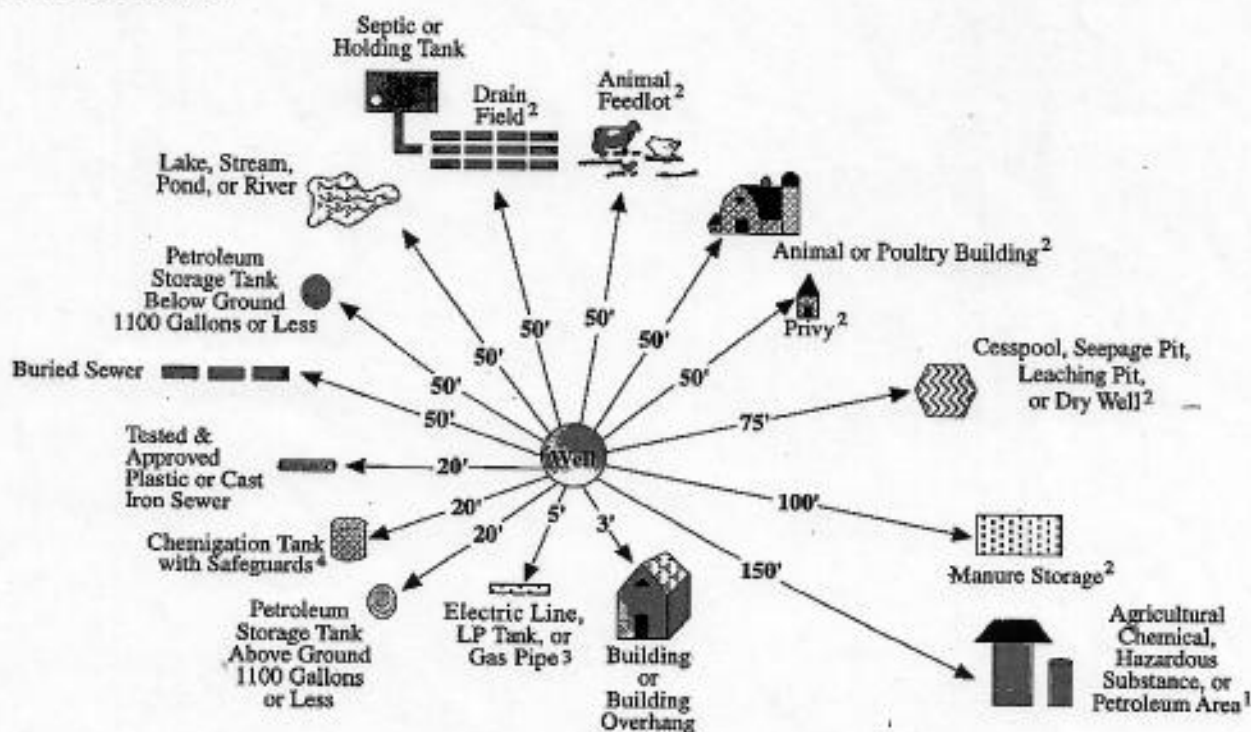
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PROTECTING YOUR WELL

A well provides a reliable, safe source of drinking water when the well is properly located, constructed, and maintained. You can ensure the safety of your drinking water by testing the water periodically, keeping potential sources of contamination away from the well, and sealing unused wells.

This fact sheet provides basic information to assist you in protecting your well. Additional information about wells and well water can be obtained from a well specialist at the Minnesota Department of Health (see locations on back) or from your local health department. The requirements of law and rule are found in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103I, and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4725 (well code).

LOCATION The diagram below indicates the minimum separation distances required between wells and some common sources of contamination. A complete listing is found in Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4725. Minnesota law requires that these distances must be maintained when constructing a new well; installing potential contaminant sources, such as a fuel storage tank, septic system, or a feedlot; or when constructing new buildings, or adding onto existing structures or facilities.



¹If safeguards are provided the minimum distance may be shortened. Consult Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4725.

²A water-supply well which has less than 50 feet of watertight casing or which is not cased through a confining layer, such as a clay layer, at least 10 feet thick, must be located at least twice the indicated distance from the potential contaminant source.

³A well between 5 and 10 feet of an electric transmission line, gas pipe, or LP tank must be placarded and work must not be performed on the well unless the line is deenergized and grounded or shielded, and the gas pipe or LP tank does not contain flammable gas.

⁴The 20-foot distance applies to only irrigation wells and the chemigation safeguards must meet requirements of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.