



DOMINICK PANGALLO
MAYOR

CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF HEALTH
98 WASHINGTON STREET, 3RD FLOOR
SALEM, MA 01970
TEL. (978) 741-1800
health@salem.com



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DAVID GREENBAUM, RS, CHO
HEALTH AGENT

Salem Board of Health requires a Pumping Test for private water supply wells

A properly constructed private well water supply well must have a sufficient capacity to provide for anticipated needs. In order to determine if the well can provide an adequate supply of water and to obtain information necessary for the design of the permanent production pump, the well driller or pump contractor must perform a pumping test.

All pumping test data should be recorded and included in a report that the contractor must submit to the well owner. If the well driller performs the pumping test, a copy of the pumping test report should be appended to the Water Well Completion Report that is submitted to the Board of Health and the Office of Water Resources.

General Recommendations for Performing Pumping Tests

The following general recommendations apply to all pumping tests:

- (1) upon completion of drilling and developing the well, and prior to beginning the pumping test, the aquifer should be allowed to recover from stresses induced by drilling and development procedures.
- (2) a temporary pump should be used for the test
- (3) the discharge line should be located where it will not cause recirculation of pumped water
- (4) before starting the pumping test, the discharge line should be filled with water to prevent unnecessary fluctuations in the discharge rate at the beginning of the test
- (5) the discharge water should be checked periodically for sediment: excessive sediment in the discharge, which could damage the pump, indicates that the well needs additional development
- (6) water level measurements should be measured in feet and hundredths of a foot
- (7) water levels should be monitored in any test wells or supply wells that could potentially be influenced by the well being tested