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)
* 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 (<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/wwd/wwd001.pdf>) typically includes the following information:

* Owner’s name and address
* Physical location of the well (address, latitude/longitude, 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
* Driller’s name, address, and license number

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

* The cooperative Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) application, the Submitted Drillers Report (SDR) Database (<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/data/drillersdb.asp>), was created in 2001 and includes over 650,000 reports and over 230,000 plugging reports submitted by water well drillers.
* For wells drilled as early as 1820, the TWDB Groundwater Database (GWDB) (<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/data/gwdbrpt.asp>) includes over 140,000 water well records. Data from these wells and the wells in the cooperative SDR Database can be viewed in an interactive map application, Water Data Interactive (WDI), <https://www3.twdb.texas.gov/apps/WaterDataInteractive/GroundwaterDataViewer/?map=gwdb> .
* Viewer Help for the WDI is available at <https://www3.twdb.texas.gov/apps/waterdatainteractive/Content/help.pdf>
* The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Water Well Report Viewer (<https://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/downloads/gis/docs/water-well-report-viewer-userguide.pdf>.
* For public drinking water sources, the TCEQ Source Water Assessment Viewer (<https://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/downloads/gis/docs/swap-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\_Sytems\_Sea](http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/Help/html_Public_Water_Supply_Sytems_Search_Paramaters.htm) [rch\_Paramaters.htm](http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/Help/html_Public_Water_Supply_Sytems_Search_Paramaters.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 (TAGD), <https://texasgroundwater.org/> – you can click on “Membership/Current Members/District” to get specific GCD contact information. All GCD contact information can be found on TCEQ’s website at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/groundwater/gcd/gcd-contact-list.pdf>.

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 (<https://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.

* Click on the “Mapper” button in the upper right 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.

# Resources and Useful Links

* TDLR Well Report form 001, <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/wwd/wwd001.pdf>
* TCEQ GCD webpage, <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/groundwater/groundwater-planning-assessment/districts.html> – a map of Texas GCDs, summary description of GCDs, and GCD contact list are available
* TAGD website, <https://texasgroundwater.org/> – click on “Membership/Current Members/District” to get specific GCD contact information.
* USGS National Water Information System, <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>.
* Additional USGS resources include the Groundwater Information Pages (<https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science>), and information on Groundwater Watch (<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/blog/gww/>).

# Other Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

To find additional FAQs visit the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee’s FAQ webpage at <https://tgpc.texas.gov/frequently-asked-questions-faqs>.