

# Protect Your Drinking Water

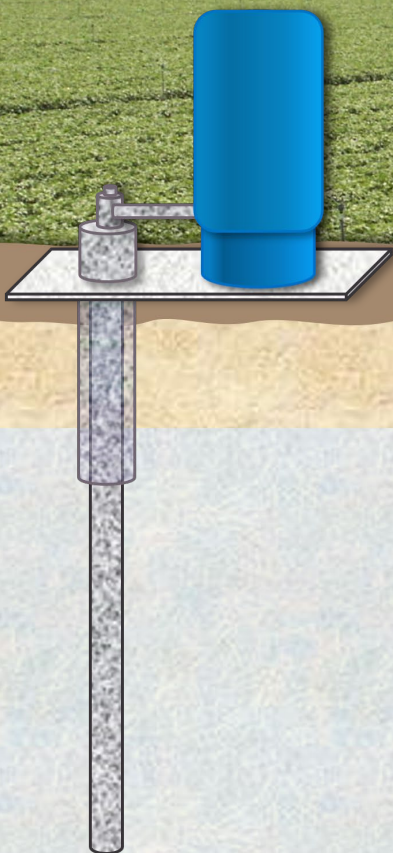
## Pesticide contamination prevention requirements for your well

The Department of Pesticide Regulation's [Wellhead Protection requirements](#) apply to irrigation, domestic, municipal, monitoring, abandoned, dry and drainage wells. The requirements are crucial to ensure your wellhead is protected to prevent potential contamination of your drinking water.

**Avoid runoff near the perimeter of the wellhead.** If your well is situated where water runs away from the well, and runoff does not contact or collect around any part of the wellhead, including the concrete pad, you are in compliance with the regulation.

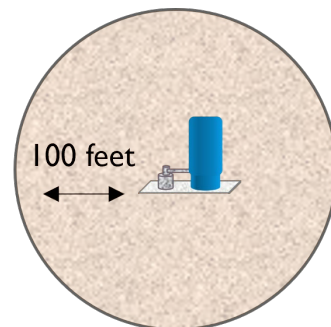


**If your well is sited where water collects or contacts the wellhead,** construct a berm around your wellhead to prevent surface water from reaching or accumulating near the well (berm construction - next page). Without the berm, you must avoid certain pesticide-related activities within a 100-foot radius of the wellhead (see the regulation below).



### Regulation in plain language:

If the wellhead is not protected from contact with or pooling of water, the following are prohibited within 100 feet of the unprotected well:

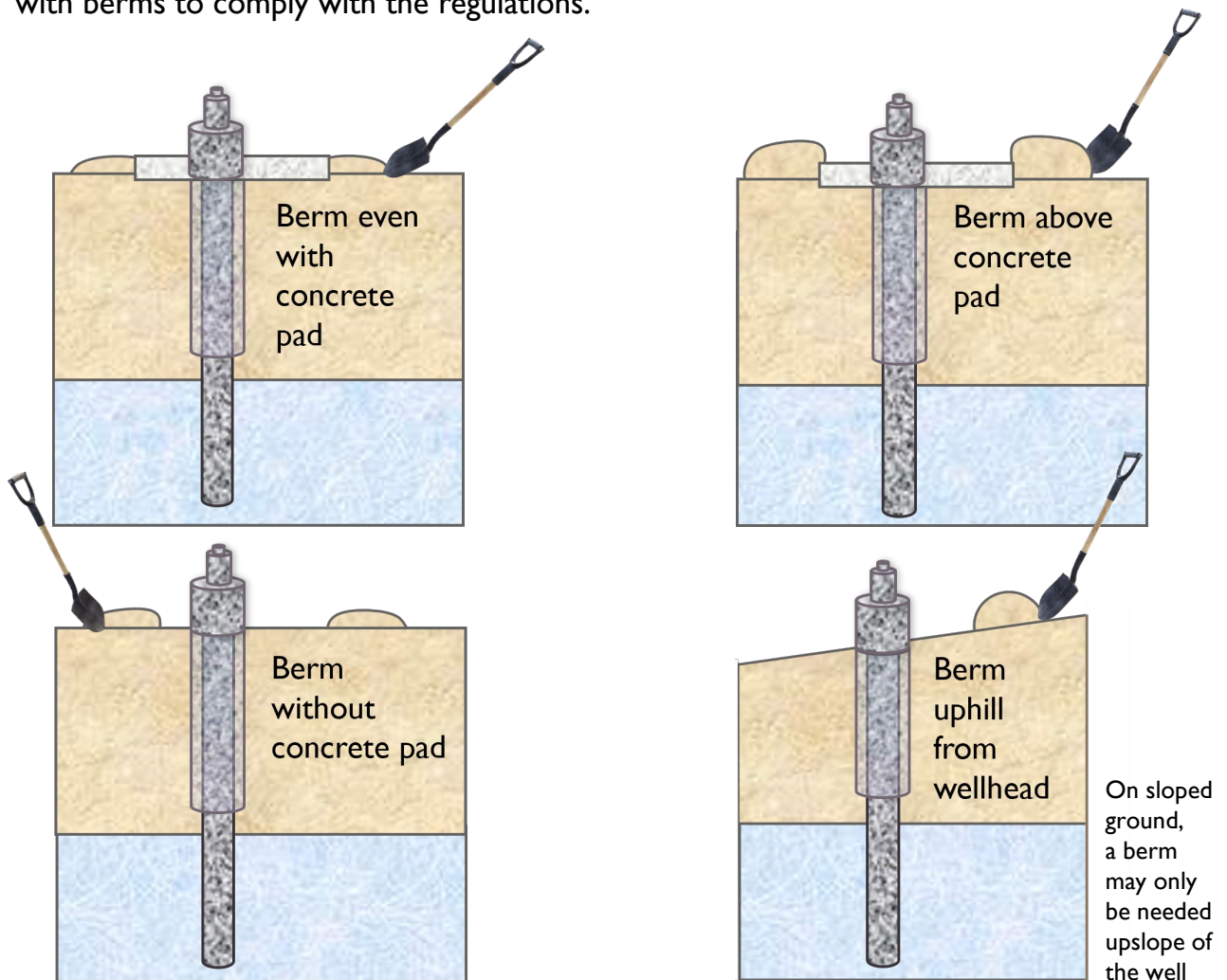


- Mixing, loading, or storing a pesticide
- Rinsing spray equipment or pesticide containers
- Maintaining spray equipment in a manner that could cause pesticides to spill onto the soil
- Applying preemergent herbicides included on [DPR's Groundwater Protection List, CCR 6800](#).

The next page has recommended practices.

## Berms to protect wellhead

If your well is not protected from runoff pooling around the wellhead you can protect it with berms to comply with the regulations.



## Best practices

Although the language in the regulation is specific to wells where water could pool near the wellhead, best practices suggested by multiple agencies say to avoid use of chemicals within 100 feet of the wellhead. For pesticides, this especially includes ones that are listed on [DPR's Groundwater Protection List](#).

### For further information about protecting your well, visit:

- DPR's Groundwater Protection Program - [/bit.ly/ca-dpr-gwpp](https://bit.ly/ca-dpr-gwpp)
- Groundwater Protection List - [cdpr.ca.gov/environmental-monitoring/groundwater/](https://cdpr.ca.gov/environmental-monitoring/groundwater/)
- Southern San Joaquin Valley Management Practices Evaluation Program - [agmpep.com/wp-content/uploads/Wellhead\\_Protection\\_V9.pdf](https://agmpep.com/wp-content/uploads/Wellhead_Protection_V9.pdf)
- Contact your local Environmental Management or Health Department