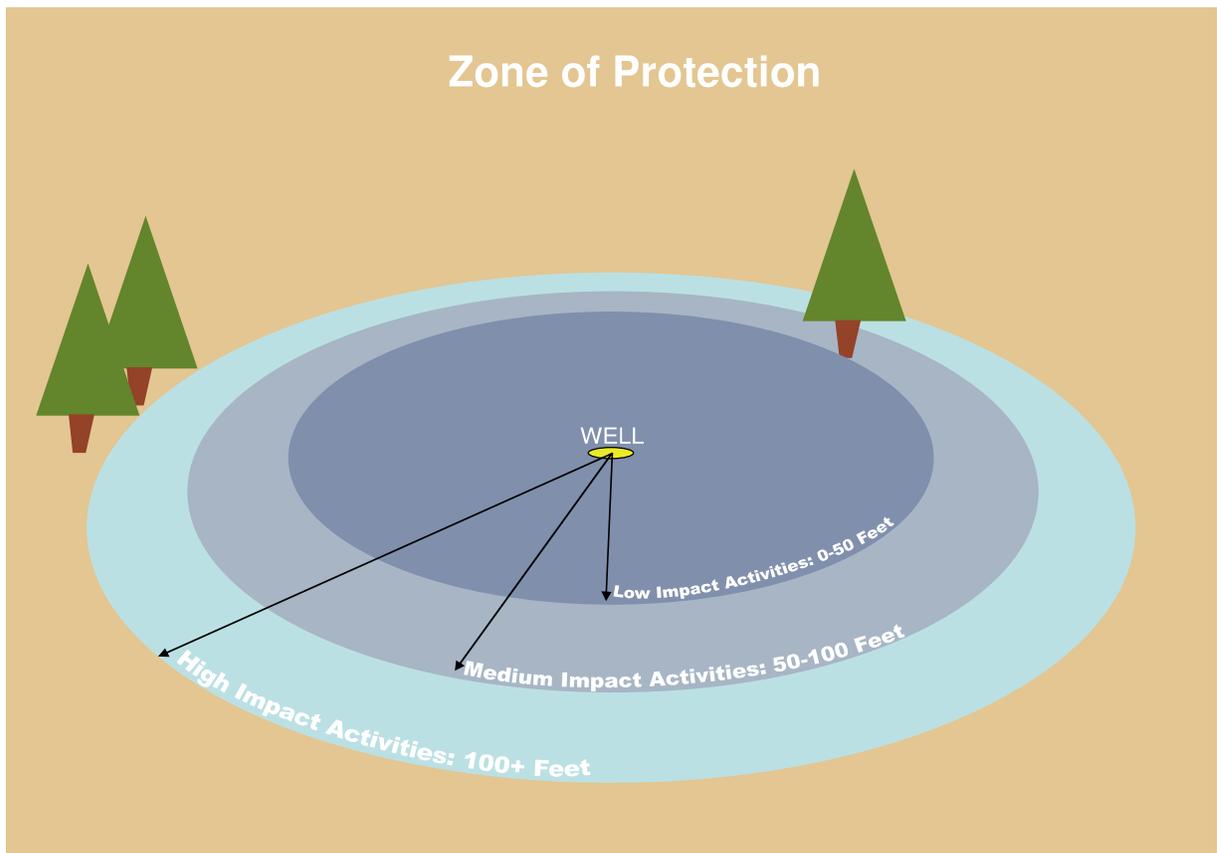


WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

Preventing groundwater contamination is the best way to keep your well water clean. Groundwater typically moves slowly, so any contamination can take decades to naturally flush clean. The layer of ground between the surface and groundwater will provide some protection, but is not a perfect filter. The farther away possible contamination activities are from your well, the more soil is available to filter out contaminants if an accidental spill or release occurs. Local health agencies may have legally-mandated setbacks. The US EPA recommends that private well owners establish a “zone of protection” around their well. This zone should be considered off-limits for storing, mixing, spraying, spilling, burying, or dumping anything that might contaminate your water supply. Check with your local agencies to see if there are any specific ordinances requiring setbacks for animal enclosures, septic systems, and other types of facilities. The State of California does not regulate the location of private domestic wells.



LOW IMPACT ACTIVITIES

- Recreation area
- House
- Outdoor furniture and play areas

MEDIUM IMPACT ACTIVITIES

- Garage
- Boat
- City sewer lines

HIGH IMPACT ACTIVITIES

- Chemical storage
- Animal enclosures
- Manure/compost piles
- Machine/auto repair
- Septic system

Source: USEPA

Revised April 2011