



**FRESNO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**

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**REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING AN INACTIVE WATER WELL**

An inactive water well is considered "abandoned" if it has not been used for a period of one year and must be destroyed by a licensed C-57 water well contractor unless the owner demonstrates intention to use the well again. In accordance with Section 115700 of the [California Health and Safety Code](#), the well owner shall properly maintain an inactive well as evidence of intention for future use in such a way that the following requirements are met:

1. The well shall not impair the quality of water in the well and groundwater encountered by the well.
2. The top of the well or well casing will be provided with a cover, that is secured by a lock or by other means to prevent its removal without the aid of equipment or tools, to prevent unauthorized access, to prevent a safety hazard to humans and animals, and to prevent illegal disposal of wastes in the well.

The cover will be watertight where the top of the well casing or other surface openings to the well are below ground level, such as in a vault or below known levels of flooding. The cover will be watertight if the well is inactive for more than five consecutive years. A pump motor, angle drive, or other surface feature of a well, when in compliance with the above provisions, shall suffice as a cover.

3. The well will be marked so as to be easily visible and located, and labeled so as to be easily identified as a well.
4. The area surrounding the well will be kept clear of brush, debris, and waste materials.