

2. Avoid Drilling Salty Drinking Wells – Save \$2,500 - \$5,000. (3 Minutes)

- Q.1 Is it true that in many suburban and rural areas, public water systems are not available?
- A1. Many times individuals are required to drill wells which can be a very costly proposition. Sometimes they cost \$2,500 to in excess of \$5,000, depending upon the soil, subsoil conditions, and Health Department regulations.
- Q2. I hear that many times drinking water is bad tasting.... it can be salty or have sulfur smells.
- A2. Salty water has been very common in some areas in this part of Michigan. The salty drinking water sometimes cannot even be corrected with a water filter system, and has been known to ruin water heaters, dishwashers, and washers. It is impossible to drink in some situations and even has burned people when they tried to use it for shower and bathing purposes.
- Q3. How can a person avoid this when they are either shopping for lots to build their dream home or if they are buying an existing home?
- A3. They can call or visit local well drillers. They can ask the well driller if they have salty water maps or sulfur water maps or other adverse water condition maps. It is surprising that many well drillers have these maps but they are not always generous to share them with individuals. Specify the address of where you are lot shopping and compare notes with them. Also ask about required well depths, what is common, what is required by the Health Department, and what are the costs per foot of drilling. You may also find out if during certain times of the year, there are additional seasonal charges for having to drill through frosty or frozen ground or other adverse weather conditions.
- Q4. Should a person talk or visit with neighbors about their wells?
- A4. Yes they should, and they should find out if they have deep wells or shallow wells. Specifically:
- (1) How deep are they?
 - (2) Who was their well driller?
 - (3) Do they need a water softener or special water treatment system? How costly is that system? Visit or call the local Building Department or Health Department to see if they know of well problems in that area. Talk with a knowledgeable manager or building inspector at that government office. Do not take the word of an inexperienced person over the phone. Many times a personal visit is best, and find out which hours they are in their offices for you to make a visit, rather than continuously making phone calls or making trips when they are not in or not available. Do your homework. It could save you \$2,500 to \$5,000 in well drilling costs.