

**Major Changes to Standard  
Water Well (Code 642)  
July 2008**

1. The Standard issued for use in Virginia no longer contains “how-to” information. It now describes the minimum requirements for the practice. The “how-to” information is contained in Virginia Engineering Design Guide #642 – Water Well.
2. **PURPOSE.** The Standard allows installation of a water well for human use. This is significant because the Virginia Department of Health (DOH) regulations are more stringent if the water is to be used for human consumption.
3. **Suitability of Site.** As of July 1, 2007, Virginia law forbids the installation of private wells within 50 feet of a property line where the adjacent land use is agriculture unless an exemption from the Virginia DOH is granted.
4. **Installation.** All wells shall be cased to a sufficient height (minimum of 12 inches) above the ground surface to prevent entry of surface and near-surface water. For wells located in floodplains, the casing will extend a minimum of 18 inches above the annual flood level.
5. **Grouting and Sealing.** If the water is intended for human consumption, the casing shall be surrounded at the ground surface by a concrete slab at least 6 inches thick that extends at least 1 foot in all directions.
6. **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS.** The DESIGN and CHECK DATA requirements have been revised to reflect a more consistent format from one Standard to another. The detailed list of required information given in earlier versions of the Standard can be found in the Well Driller’s Certificate of Completion which is part of the As-Built Documentation. A Cover Sheet is required for this practice.

NOTE: The Virginia Construction Specification associated with this Standard, VA-730. Well, has also changed.