

3.28 WELL DRILLER LICENSE

- ❑ *Question: Do you intend to make a hole into the ground for the purpose of either transferring water or heat to or from the ground, or obtaining aquifer data? OR*
- ❑ *Question: Do you intend to install or repair any equipment that is necessary to draw or treat water from a cased borehole?*

Why do I need this approval?

The State Board of Well Drillers was created in 1968 as part of Maryland's strategy to assist in the orderly development and protection of its groundwater resources. The Board of Well Drillers is responsible for regulation of all those who engage in the practice of well drilling in their own and the public interest. The Board sets standards and administers qualifying examinations to license individuals who drill water supply and geotechnical wells, or install water pumps or water conditioning equipment.

The practice of well drilling includes engaging in any of the following activities for profit: (1) Making, altering, repairing or sealing a well; or (2) Installing, altering, repairing or disconnecting well system equipment, including pumps, tanks and water treatment units.

What laws or regulations give MDE the legal authority to issue this approval?

STATE: Environment Article, Title 13;
[COMAR 26.05.01 through 26.05.04.](#)

What is the process to get this approval?

- 1) Complete the "Application for Initial License" form and include the non-refundable application fee payable to the "State Board of Well Drillers".
- 2) Include a detailed account of actual years of experience installing wells, or well system equipment, or both, along with the name and phone number of previous employers in the groundwater industry.
- 3) Pending Board approval for qualification, pass the appropriate exam.

APPLICATION

[Application for Initial License](#)
[Application for Reactivation](#)
[Application for Reinstatement](#)

Are there any other requirements?

PRE-APPROVAL: A person who satisfies the experience requirements for the class and category of license sought, passes the appropriate Board examination, and files the required insurance and bonding documents will receive a license. All licenses expire on June 1 of each odd-numbered year.

POST-APPROVAL: A license may be renewed for a two-year term upon payment of the renewal fee, the submission of proof of satisfactory completion of 20 hours of Board-approved training related to the practice and the submission of valid bond and insurance documents, where appropriate.

How long should I expect it to take to get this approval once I submit a complete application?

Type of License	Turnaround Time
New licenses	6 months
Renewal licenses	30 days

Once I get this approval, how long will it last?

Maximum of two years

How much will this approval cost?

Type of Fee	Fee
Exam application fee	\$75
Initial license fee	\$50-\$150 depending on the class and category*
Renewal fee	\$100-\$200 every two years depending on the class and category*

For fee details, see [COMAR 26.05.02.10](#)

Do I need to know any additional information?

- 1) This Board issues the following licenses:
 - Master Driller / Journeyman / Apprentice
 - Pump Installer / Apprentice
 - Water Conditioner Installer / Apprentice
- 2) The following permits may be required from MDE before a licensee constructs or modifies a well:
 - Well construction permit;
 - Water appropriation and use permit;
 - Water appropriation exemption

Who do I contact with additional questions?

State Board of Well Drillers
well.board_MDE@maryland.gov
(410) 537-4466