



## ABOUT GRADING

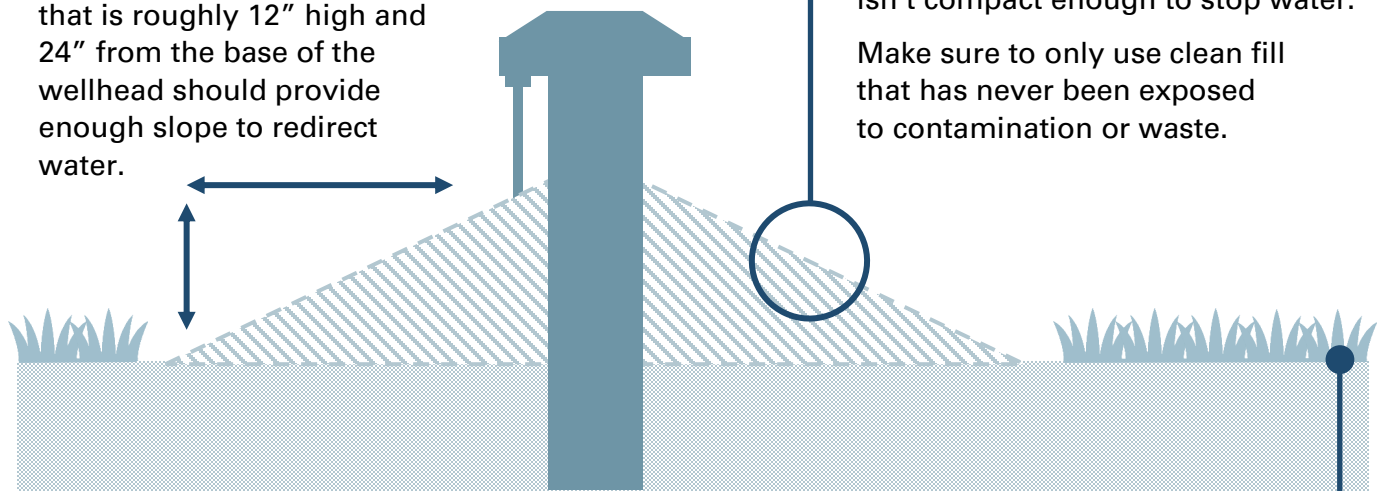
Wells can be contaminated by rainwater, runoff, and standing water. ‘Grading’ means creating a mound at the base of your wellhead (the part visible above ground). This will redirect water flow away from your well, prevent it from pooling, and lower the risk of contamination.

Grading is required<sup>1</sup> for public water system wells and newly constructed private wells, and strongly encouraged for older wells. The recommendations below are guidelines that can be adapted to whatever will best protect the well in each specific situation.

Public water systems should contact Drinking Water Quality for additional guidance.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

For most wells,<sup>2</sup> a mound that is roughly 12” high and 24” from the base of the wellhead should provide enough slope to redirect water.



The mound should be either:  
a) soil from that same area, or  
b) other fine/coarse fill (i.e., sand or soil). Avoid things like gravel, which isn't compact enough to stop water.  
Make sure to only use clean fill that has never been exposed to contamination or waste.

The mound should make a full circle around the wellhead.

Only use grass seed on and around the mound. Don't apply any fertilizer or lawn feed in the area, and keep gardens and other plants away from the base.

<sup>1</sup> PWS: [RIDOH, 216-RICR-50-05-1 §1.4\(L\)\(3\)\(g\)](#) Private wells: [440-RICR-10-00-6 §6.24.12 \(B\)\(1\)\(c\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> Standard wellhead height is 18” above ground, but can be shorter in older wells. If your wellhead is too short, adjust the mound height accordingly. *Do not bury your wellhead.*