

Part 1: Evaluating Geologic Materials Beneath Your Homestead

This part looks at the geologic materials beneath your homestead soils. By combining both the soil and the geology evaluation (Part 3), there will be a much clearer picture of your site's potential for keeping pollutants out of ground water.

For simplification, we are considering all ground-water systems, whether it is in basalt, unconsolidated alluvium, etc., to have a high potential for contamination unless there are clay layers present over a wide spread area. Thus this evaluation requires the knowledge of the presence or absence of clay layers above the water table. This information can be obtained from the following sources:

- A well log description of your well or if that is not available, from a well log description from the nearest neighboring well. Well logs for wells drilled after 1972 should be on file with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). IDWR has regional offices in the following areas:

North (Coeur d' Alene):	(208) 769-1422
Southwest (Boise):	(208) 334-2190
South Central (Twin Falls):	(208) 736-3033
Eastern (Idaho Falls):	(208) 525-7161

Be prepared to provide the legal description (*county, township, range, section, and 1/4 of a 1/4 section or 40 acres*) of the well location. If known, provide the year the well was installed and the owner's name at that time. A nominal amount may be charged for copying the log.

- Published hydrogeological reports. The United States Geological Survey (USGS), IDWR, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and universities and colleges are organizations that may have a report that covers your area.

Step 1: Find the information you need from the suggested sources.

Step 2: Read the well log description or the hydrogeologic description to determine if there are any clay layers above the water table at your homestead.

Step 3: If there are clay layers present, your rank is 2.
If there are no clay layers present, your rank is 1.

Step 4: Place your geologic risk rank here. **Geologic Risk Rank**

Geologic Risk Rank	Level of Risk of Ground-water Contamination
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1

High

2

Moderately high