



# 2026 Wellhead Upgrades Rebate Information

In the region, 42% of residents depend on groundwater; a large proportion of these residents have their own private well that they manage for their drinking water.

Improperly constructed or poorly maintained wells can act as a direct pathway for surface contaminants such as manure, petroleum products and fertilizers to enter the groundwater. In order to assist residents in protecting and improving groundwater quality in rural areas, the RDN is offering rebates for wellhead protection upgrades (visit [www.RDNrebates.ca](http://www.RDNrebates.ca) for details).

## TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REBATE:

- Must be a residential landowner with a private domestic well within the RDN, including electoral areas (A, B, C, E, F, G, H) and member municipalities (Nanaimo, Lantzville, Parksville, Qualicum Beach).
- Wellhead upgrades must be completed by a qualified well professional (**Qualified Well Driller or Qualified Pump Installer**) certified by the province of BC with a valid ID number, except for some well cap replacements and upgrades to dug wells under 15 meters (50 feet) in depth. Complete lists of qualified well professionals are linked to the RDN rebates Wellhead Upgrades webpage.
- Each private domestic wellhead is eligible for one (1) rebate over the lifetime of the program.
- All work must be completed between January 1 and December 15, 2026.

**REBATE AMOUNT:** The RDN offers rebate funds on eligible expenses to a maximum amount for each category listed below. Secure well cap, well casing stick-up, and surface seal upgrades can be completed on one well.

**PRE-APPROVAL AND CLAIMS:** A limited number of rebates are available; funds are available on a first come, first served basis. Apply for pre-approval to “reserve” funds for eligible work for up to 90 days. Claims must be received by December 15, 2026. The RDN reserves the right to inspect or verify wells prior to pre-approval. Any qualified well that receives the rebate may be subject to onsite inspection, verification, or follow up contact by the RDN.

CATEGORY	REBATE	DESCRIPTION
Secure Well Cap	<b>\$50 max. (drilled well) \$150 max. (dug well)</b>	<b>Installation of a new secure, vermin proof well cap</b> A well cap must be securely attached to the top of the well casing in a way that prevents surface water, foreign matter, or persons/animals from entering the wellhead.
Well Casing Stick-up	<b>\$200 maximum</b>	<b>Well casing stick-up extension to a minimum of 30 cm (12 inches) above ground level</b> The well casing stick-up is to help flood-proof the well and prevent water at the ground surface from entering the top of the well. The ground around outdoor wellheads should be graded, mounded, or sloped to drain surface water away from the well.
Surface Seal	<b>\$300 maximum</b>	<b>Underground surface seal protects groundwater from surface contamination</b> Usually comprised of bentonite clay, the surface seal is to prevent contaminants from the surface or shallow subsurface zone from entering the well. Seal must be at least 2.5 cm (1 inch) thick, and for most wells be a minimum of 5 m (16 ft) in length. Surface seal upgrades are not done solely as a matter of course (i.e. just because it is an older well and not likely to have a seal) as trying to install a seal later could potentially damage the well.
Well Closure	<b>\$500 maximum</b>	<b>Decommissioning of an unused or deactivated well</b> Wells that have not been used for ten years must be closed under the BC Groundwater Protection Regulation. Closing a well means backfilling and sealing the well. If a well has been found to be an irreconcilable point of groundwater contamination, closure may be recommended sooner.

## HOW THE REBATE WORKS

<b>STEP 1</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>SUBMIT PRE-APPROVAL APPLICATION</b>  Forms are available at <a href="http://www.RDNrebates.ca">www.RDNrebates.ca</a>. Submit your pre-approval by:  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:watersmart@rdn.bc.ca">watersmart@rdn.bc.ca</a>  <b>Mail or in person:</b> Attn: Drinking Water &amp; Watershed Protection, Regional District of Nanaimo, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2  Include with your pre-approval:  1) Completed Wellhead Upgrades Pre-approval Application form.  2) Before photo(s), include the wellhead requiring upgrade(s), clearly demonstrating deficiencies of any of the components described. Make sure to include a form of reference that identifies the wellhead (i.e. part of your home/pump house in the photo(s)).  Upon pre-approval, the RDN will notify you that funds are reserved for eligible work for up to 90 days.</p>
<b>OPTIONAL</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>ATTEND A FREE wellSMART WORKSHOP</b>  Visit <a href="http://www.RDNwellSmart.ca">www.RDNwellSmart.ca</a> for workshop date(s) and registration information.</p>
<b>STEP 2</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>COMPLETION OF QUALIFYING WORK</b>  To determine what work should be completed on your wellhead to bring it up to the current best practices, use the <b>Water Well Stewardship Checklist for Rural Properties</b> or have a registered qualified well professional complete an inspection.    ALL WORK COMPLETED ON DRILLED WELLS MUST BE PERFORMED BY A REGISTERED QUALIFIED WELL PROFESSIONAL (<b>Qualified Well Driller</b> or <b>Qualified Pump Installer</b>) WITH A VALID IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (with the exception of some well cap installations and work completed on a dug well that is less than 15 meters in depth). IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE WELLHEAD UPGRADES REBATE ALL WORK MUST MEET PROVINCIAL BEST PRACTICES (see Resources linked below).    Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BC Ministry of Environment - <b>Groundwater Protection and Sustainability</b></li> <li>BC Ministry of Environment - <b>Information for Property Owners</b></li> <li>BC Groundwater Association - <b>Groundwater Protection Regulation Handbook</b></li> </ul> </p>
<b>STEP 3</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>SUBMIT YOUR CLAIM FORM</b>  Forms are available at <a href="http://www.RDNrebates.ca">www.RDNrebates.ca</a>. Submit your Claim Form by:  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:watersmart@rdn.bc.ca">watersmart@rdn.bc.ca</a>  <b>Mail or in person:</b> Attn: Drinking Water &amp; Watershed Protection, Regional District of Nanaimo, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2  Include with your claim:  1) Completed Wellhead Upgrades Rebate Claim Form.  2) Receipt(s) and/or invoice(s) marked PAID, including DATE and ITEMIZED purchase details.  3) Photo(s) of the wellhead upgrade(s) at the address indicated, clearly showing it is the same well shown in previously submitted "before" photo(s).  Allow 6 weeks for payment.</p>
Visit <a href="http://www.RDNrebates.ca">www.RDNrebates.ca</a> to see other rebates available from the RDN	