

# Water Permitting

## OWRB FACT SHEET

As the state's designated water management agency, the OWRB appropriates stream water and groundwater through water use permitting. Permits must be obtained from the OWRB for all uses of water in Oklahoma except domestic use. Domestic use includes the use of water for household purposes, farm and domestic animals up to the normal grazing capacity of the land, and the irrigation of land not exceeding a total of three acres in area for the growing of gardens, orchards, and lawns. Domestic use also includes water used for agricultural purposes by natural individuals, use for fire protection, and use by non-household entities for drinking water, restrooms, and watering of lawns, provided such uses do not exceed five acre-feet per year.

### Applying for a Long-term Water Use Permit

To apply for a long-term permit to use water, you must submit a [Long-Term Application for Groundwater or Surface Water Use](#) to the OWRB. Applications must include the appropriate filing fee and documents showing an interest in the surface of the land dedicated or ownership of groundwater rights (for groundwater permits). Other documentation may be required. Applications requiring review, corrections, and public notice may have a processing time of four months or longer.

### 90-Day Provisional Temporary Permits

90-Day Provisional Temporary (PT) permit applications to use groundwater and surface water may be submitted online using the OWRB's [Online Provisional Temporary Permitting System](#). All PT permit applications must be submitted with either proof of ownership or written permission from the landowner to access the diversion points of stream water or to access wells and use groundwater.

### Water Permit Fees

Fees vary by type of permit and amount of water requested. Long-term applications and some groundwater permit amendments use a sliding scale based upon the amount of water being requested to determine the fee. The fee for 90-Day Provisional Temporary permits is \$200 for regular processing or \$300 for expedited processing.

### Water Use Reporting

The OWRB mails water use reporting forms to permit holders annually in January. The forms must be completed

and returned to the OWRB within the specified time period. Willful failure to complete and return the reporting forms with the annual water right administration fee may be considered by the OWRB as nonuse of water under the permit. Timely filing of water use forms and administrative fees will help ensure that a water right is official and on file with the OWRB. Additionally, for temporary groundwater basin permits, submittal of the completed form and fee payment will revalidate the permit for another year. For stream water right holders, the water use report forms reflect actual usage as compared to the appropriation amounts, and no reported use within the seven-year sliding scale or applicable schedule of use may be cause for reduction or cancellation of the water right.

The OWRB sends water use reporting forms to the most recent contact associated with a permit until notification is given of an ownership change.

### Well Spacing Restrictions

Well spacing restrictions are in place for some groundwater basins, typically 660 feet for alluvial aquifers and 1,320 feet for bedrock aquifers. Additional restrictions apply within sole source groundwater basins.

### Self-supplying Water to Grow Marijuana or Hemp

If you are self-supplying your own water from a groundwater well or surface water source to grow marijuana or hemp (i.e., not purchasing water from a municipality, rural water district, or other entity) a water use permit is required prior to using water. If the water use permit holder is growing medical marijuana or industrial hemp, a copy of their license from the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, and/or Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry must be submitted to the OWRB. The associated water use permit number must be clearly identified in some manner (such as through a cover letter).

More information can be found on the [OWRB website](#). Contact a permitting specialist to request an appointment at [waterpermitting@owrb.ok.gov](mailto:waterpermitting@owrb.ok.gov).



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