

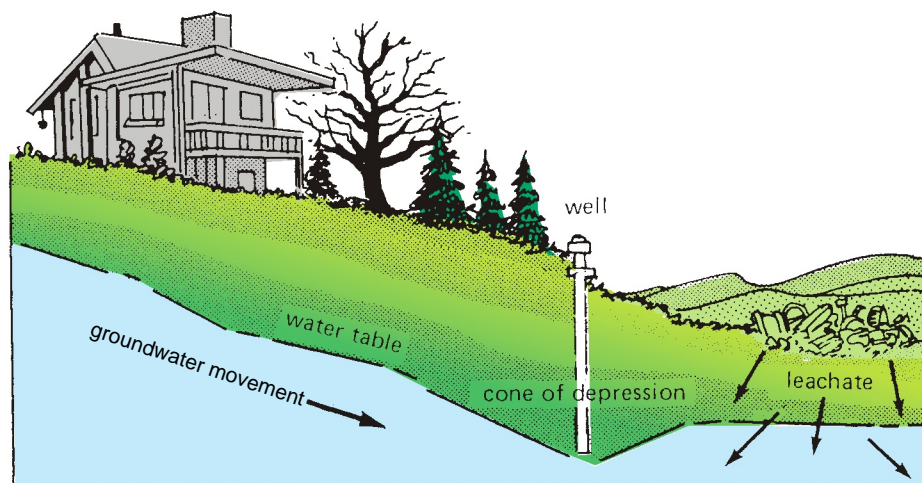
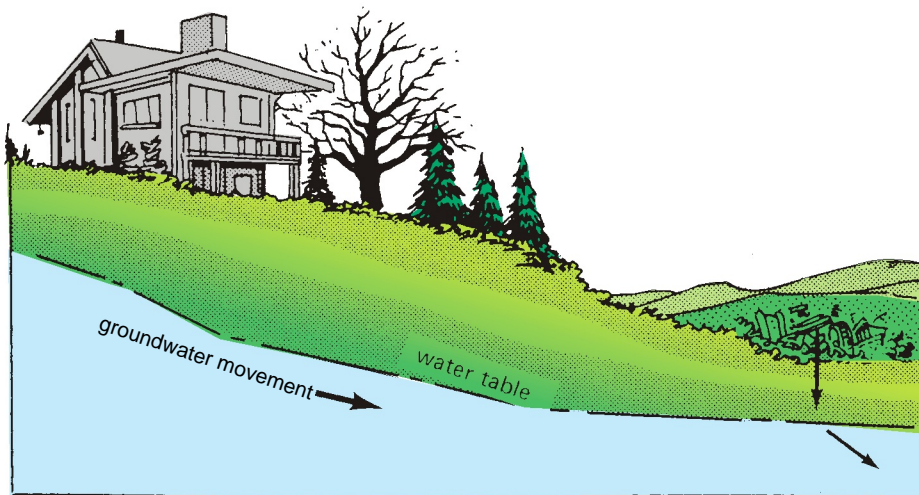
## Cone of depression

The farther away you get from the well, the less effect the pumping has on the level of the water table. It's a gradual change, so the water table level around a well has a sort of cone shape. That is called the CONE OF DEPRESSION.

This cone of depression is one of the “valleys” in the water table. Cones of depression are important for a couple of reasons.

Because water flows down to lower points, the cone of depression could change the direction groundwater flows in. That might change what you find IN your well water; if there's a source of pollution near your well, the cone of depression might affect whether the pollution flows toward or away from the well. Cones of depression also can interfere with neighboring wells.

Changing the direction the groundwater moves isn't the only effect pumping may have on groundwater. If a well owner pumps water out faster than it can be replaced, the water table will drop and the well might run dry temporarily.



*A cone of depression around a well may influence high and low points in the water table, changing the direction of the water movements.*