



## CLASS V UIC STUDY FACT SHEET *LAUNDROMAT WELLS*

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**What is a laundromat well?**

Laundromat wells are Class V underground injection control (UIC) wells used to inject fluids from laundromats where no onsite dry cleaning is performed or where no organic solvents are used for laundering.

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**What types of fluids are injected into laundromat wells?**

Fluids similar to greywater from household washing machines.

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**Do injectate constituents exceed drinking water standards at the point of injection?**

The limited data that are available from coin-operated washers indicate that none of the primary drinking water standards or health advisory levels are exceeded by laundromat washwater. However, the injectate has exceeded the secondary drinking water standards for pH and total dissolved solids.

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**What are the characteristics of the injection zone of a laundromat well?**

Laundromat wells are used in a variety of geological settings.

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**Are there any contamination incidents associated with laundromat wells?**

There are no reported contamination incidents associated with laundromat wells.

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**Are laundromat wells vulnerable to spills or illicit discharges?**

The unsupervised nature of coin-operated laundromats may make Class V wells at those facilities susceptible to contamination due to laundering of contaminated articles. For instance, an individual may wash highly contaminated articles, such as solvent-soaked or oily rags, that may result in increased contaminant concentrations in the wash water. It is also reasonable to expect that any sinks or floor drains at the facility, which also may receive minor spills, would be hooked into the same plumbing system that collects and transfers wash water to the injection well.

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**How many laundromat wells exist in the United States?**

There are less than 700 documented laundromat wells in the United States. Although many states estimate numbers of wells much higher than the numbers documented, most are unsure of the exact number of wells.

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**Where are laundromat wells located within the United States?**

Laundromat wells are documented in 12 states, with AL, WV, NY, MS, and IA providing the highest estimates (collectively, these five states account for more than 90 percent of the estimated national inventory).

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**How are laundromat wells regulated in states with the largest number of this type of well?**

*Permit by rule:* IA, MS, and WV

*Individual permit:* AL and NY

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**Where can I obtain additional information on laundromat wells?**

For general information, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, toll-free 800-426-4791. The Safe Drinking Water Hotline is open Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. For technical inquiries, contact Amber Moreen, Underground Injection Control Program, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (mail code 4606), EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C., 20460. Phone: 202-260-4891. E-mail: [moreen.amber@epa.gov](mailto:moreen.amber@epa.gov). The complete Class V UIC Study (EPA/816-R-99-014, September 1999), which includes a volume addressing laundromat wells (Volume 8), can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/uic/cl5study.html>.

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