

# Additional Mortgage Survey Information:

- The water supply needs to be free of all chemicals prior to sampling, including chlorine.
- If a positive bacteriological sample is obtained and the purchaser wishes to treat the water supply with a disinfectant, a well disinfection guideline can be obtained from any SWDH office.
- The State Lab requires ten working days to process Nitrate/Nitrite results and will not disclose results to anyone except SWDH.
- Lead samples must be taken from inside the residence. The applicant or applicants representative must accompany SWDH during the sampling process. The potable water must not be utilized for at least four hours prior to taking the sample.
- Bacteria water samples are valid for 30 days from sample date.
- Chemical samples are valid for 90 days from sample date.

- Mortgage surveys cannot be “signed off”, prior to all requested water results being obtained from the State Laboratory.
- SWDH will only require deficiencies to be corrected if the deficiency poses possible health hazards (i.e., open sewage, tank under a foundation, steel tanks, drainfield under a foundation, etc.).

For more  
information contact  
Environmental  
Health Services at  
208.455.5400 or  
[www.swdh.org](http://www.swdh.org)



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Division of Environmental Health*



**Mortgage Survey**

**Southwest District Health**

# Introduction

A mortgage survey is a survey where Southwest District Health (SWDH) acts as a third party to perform an evaluation of a property's water and sewage system for individuals interested in buying or selling. If you have questions as to why you should obtain a mortgage survey, or exactly what is included, you may contact your local SWDH office for an explanation.

Nampa.....465-8402  
Caldwell.....455-5400  
Payette.....642-9321  
Emmett.....365-6371  
Weiser.....549-2370

## How to Apply for a Mortgage Survey at SWDH

1. Purchase the mortgage survey at any SWDH office or over the phone.

2. At the time of purchase, the following information must be provided:

- Name, address, city, zip, and phone of the applicant and property owner.
- Legal description of the property including: township, range, and section, or lot, block, and subdivision name.
- Year house was built.
- Directions to the property.
- Is the well head visible/ accessible?
- Is the house currently occupied?
- Are there any pets and will they be restrained?
- Water supply type (city, PWS, community, or private) and report location?
- Is the septic system functioning properly?
- Sewage system type (city, private, central) and report location?

3. Before “signing off” on a mortgage survey, SWDH will contact the applicant to see if they wish to fix any potential issues found during the survey, or merely have the survey signed noting the issues.

4. Results of mortgage surveys may take at least two weeks to complete. Therefore, SWDH recommends making application as soon as possible to avoid costly delays.

5. When the mortgage survey is complete, the original copy of the mortgage survey, a copy of the septic permit and water sample results, will be delivered to the client/applicant. Reports may also be faxed. If faxed, date and time of fax shall be placed on the report. Once the survey is faxed, the originals will be mailed to the client/applicant. If the client/applicant picks up the survey in person, they must sign and date the report for proof of delivery.

**Additionally, the power to the water supply must be turned on and the septic tank lid must be exposed. SWDH representatives will begin the mortgage survey inspection/sampling process within three working days after the date of purchase, and after the required information is submitted.**