

WATER WELL DRILLER

Occupation Description

“Water Well Driller” refers to a person who sets up and operates mobile equipment used to drill residential commercial and industrial water wells. In addition, they conduct other types of industrial drilling. They must know the geological formations of the area where they are working to find potable water that is clean and safe for drinking. They may assist customers in selecting a drilling site and estimating the cost. Water Well Drillers re-construct, re-develop and disinfect older and contaminated wells and water-pumping systems.

For detailed information on the scope of knowledge and skills taught and assessed in this program refer to the Program Outline, available on the SkilledTradesBC website.

Pathways to Certification

In BC, an individual can become certified as a Water Well Driller by completing the Water Well Driller program or by challenging the certification. Apprenticeship programs are for individuals who have an employer to sponsor them and challenge programs are for individuals who have extensive experience working in the occupation and wish to challenge the certification.

Youth can begin an apprenticeship in high school through the Youth Train in Trades or Youth Work in Trades programs. The Youth Work in Trades program is available for any trade if an employer is willing to sponsor the student. Trades offered through the Youth Train in Trades vary by region; contact your local school district to find out which technical training programs are being offered through the Youth Train in Trades program in your region.

Recommended Education

The following education is **recommended** for apprentices entering this occupation. These are not prerequisites, but rather a desired level of skill or knowledge that will contribute to success in the industry.

- Grade 10 or equivalent including English 10, Math 10, and Science 10
- Preferred level of education: Graded 12

SkilledTradesBC Registration

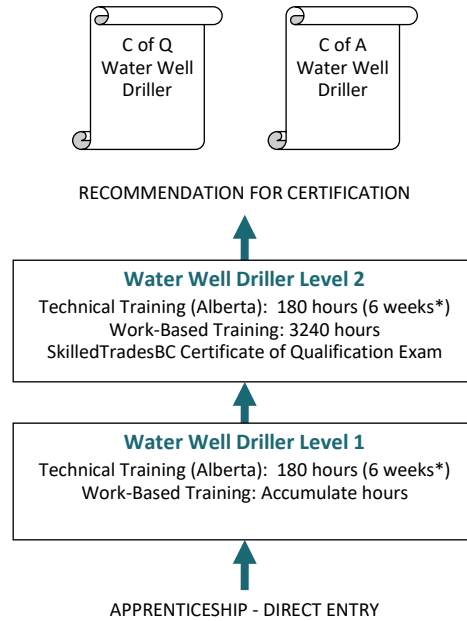
Individuals who wish to begin an apprenticeship in this program must register with SkilledTradesBC along with their sponsor. Application forms for all programs are available from the SkilledTradesBC website. Online registration is also available for most programs through the SkilledTradesBC website.

Those who wish to challenge the Water Well Driller certification must complete the Water Well Driller Challenge Application and submit it to SkilledTradesBC. Challenge applications are assessed for proof of workplace hours and scope of experience prior to acceptance of the individual into the Challenge pathway.

Apprenticeship Pathway

This graphic provides an overview of the Water Well Driller apprenticeship pathway.

*C of Q = Certificate of Qualification
C of A = Certificate of Apprenticeship
WBT = Work-Based Training*



**Suggested duration based on 30-hour week*

CROSS-PROGRAM CREDITS
None

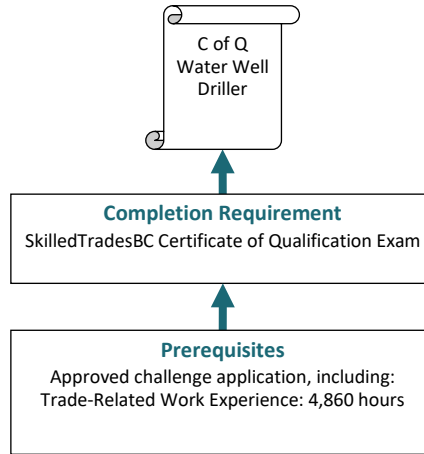
Apprenticeship Program Standards

Credentials Awarded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Well Driller – Certificate of Qualification Water Well Driller – Certificate of Apprenticeship 										
SkilledTradesBC Registration Prerequisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement signed by the employer to sponsor the apprentice Note: Technical training for this program is delivered in Alberta by Red Deer Polytechnic. A SkilledTradesBC ID number is created when you register in the program in BC, but you must have an Alberta ID number as well in order to register for technical training. Contact SkilledTradesBC to have this number created for you. 										
Completion Requirements	<p>Certification as a Water Well Driller is awarded upon successful completion of:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Requirement</th> <th>Level of Achievement Required</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Technical Training (Delivered in Alberta by Red Deer Polytechnic)</td> <td> Minimum 70% in each level of technical training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1: 180 hours (or 6 weeks*) Level 2: 180 hours (or 6 weeks*) </td> </tr> <tr> <td>SkilledTradesBC Certificate of Qualification Exam</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 70% </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Work-Based Training</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3,240 hours </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recommendation for Certification</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation for certification signed by the Sponsor and an individual holding credentials eligible for sign-off authority </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>(*Assuming 30 hours in school per week)</i></p>	Requirement	Level of Achievement Required	Technical Training (Delivered in Alberta by Red Deer Polytechnic)	Minimum 70% in each level of technical training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1: 180 hours (or 6 weeks*) Level 2: 180 hours (or 6 weeks*) 	SkilledTradesBC Certificate of Qualification Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 70% 	Work-Based Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3,240 hours 	Recommendation for Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation for certification signed by the Sponsor and an individual holding credentials eligible for sign-off authority
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Program Duration	<p>Duration varies depending on how training is delivered, but the program generally takes 2 years to complete.</p> <p>The technical training requirement is typically met through block-release training (full-time, at school) delivered by a SkilledTradesBC-approved training provider. It can also be met through approved alternative training models (e.g., distance education, online, part-time) and/or level challenge where these options are available.</p>										
Sign-off Authority	<p>Credentials eligible to sign-off on the Recommendation for Certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Well Driller – Certificate of Qualification BC Ground Water Association Certificate 										
Challenging a Level	<p>The following levels of technical training can be challenged for advanced placement in this program</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Level</th> <th>Prerequisites</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>None</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Level	Prerequisites	None	n/a						
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Challenge Pathway

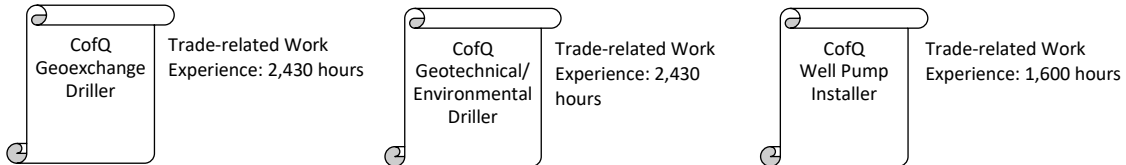
This graphic provides an overview of the Water Well Driller challenge pathway.

C of Q = Certificate of Qualification



CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program



Challenge Program Standards

Credentials Awarded

Water Well Driller – Certificate of Qualification

SkilledTradesBC

Registration Prerequisites

An approved Challenge Application, which includes:

- 4,860 documented hours of directly related experience working in the occupation

Credit for Prior Learning

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are considered to have met, or partially met, the prerequisites for challenging this program:

Credential	Credit(s) Granted
Geoexchange Driller – Certificate of Qualification	▪ Work experience: 2,430 hours
Geotechnical/Environmental Driller – Certificate of Qualification	▪ Work experience: 2,430 hours
Well Pump Installer- Certificate of Qualification	▪ Work experience: 1,600 hours

Completion Requirements

Certification as a Water Well Driller is awarded upon successful completion of:

Requirement	Level of Achievement Required
SkilledTradesBC Certificate of Qualification Exam	▪ Minimum 70%

Supporting Documents

Water Well Driller Apprenticeship Course Outline (Alberta 2022) – Defines the full scope of knowledge and skills taught during technical training. Available from the SkilledTradesBC website.

Water Well Driller BC Program Outline (2026) – Defines the full scope of knowledge and skills of BC-specific competencies tested on the SkilledTradesBC certification exam. To be used in conjunction with Alberta’s Curriculum Guide for certification exam preparation. Available from the SkilledTradesBC website.

Contacts

SkilledTradesBC manages B.C.’s industry training and apprenticeship programs. Contact SkilledTradesBC Customer service if you have any questions regarding registration, examinations or certification for this program.

Telephone:	778-328-8700	Fax:	778-328-8701
Toll Free (within BC):	1-866-660-6011	Email:	customerservice@skilledtradesbc.ca
Website:	www.skilledtradesbc.ca		

BC Ground Water Association works with industry to identify current and emerging knowledge and skill requirements for occupations related to this program, explore training and certification options, and maintain this program.

Telephone: 604-530-8934
Fax: 604-530-8934
Toll Free (within BC): 1-855-530-8934
E-mail: secretary@bcgwa.org
Website: www.bcgwa.org

Revision History

The standards for this program were reviewed and/or updated on the dates below.

Program Standards Approved:	March 2002
Updated:	August 2006
Updated:	May 2026

Program Profiles are updated regularly. Visit www.skilledtradesbc.ca for the most current version.