

## NGWA VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION

Not legally required, although it may be a requirement of your employer.

Eligibility:

- At least 20 years old
- 24 consecutive months of full-time drilling/pump installation experience
- Pass two exams – general exam and specialized exam within 12-month period, with a score of 70% or better score on each
- Application – references, agreement, affidavit – **received within 12 months of last exam**

## STATE LICENSURE

Legally required to meet specific standards within your state or service area.

Often requires:

- Exam(s)
- Application
- Cost
- Experience, age, references and bonds/insurance



# Exam Categories for CWD

General Drilling Exam AND one specialized exam

Cable tool drilling  
Air rotary drilling  
Mud rotary drilling  
Reverse circulation drilling  
Jetting and driving wells  
Augering and Monitoring (75)

50 questions, one hour to complete, 70% or better,  
pass both required exams within one 12-month period



# Exam Categories for CPI

General Water Systems exam AND one  
specialized exam

Water systems less than 100 gpm  
Water systems more than 100 gpm

50 questions, one hour to complete, 70% or better,  
pass both required exams within one 12-month period



# Exam Category for CVCLD

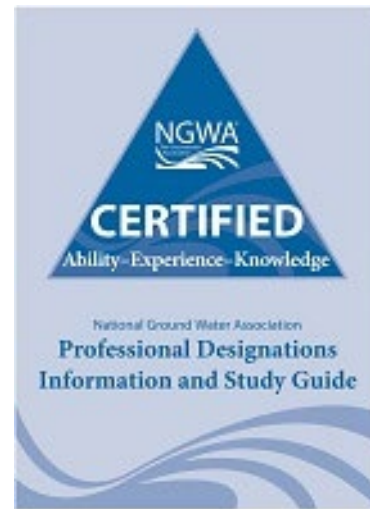
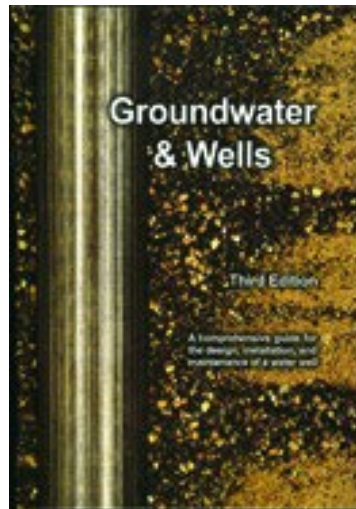
VCLD applicants must pass a 75 multiple-choice question VCL exam  
and pass with 70% or better

This certification is considered an independent designation from CWD, CPI and CWD/PI.



# Tools for Preparing to Take the Exams

*Exam Specific Study Guides*  
*Attention to exam categories and their weight*  
*Practice Questions*  
*Professional Designation Information and Study Guide*



# Scheduling Exams

- PSI Services hosts all NGWA exams, except for the Master exam
- <https://test-takers.psiexams.com/ngwa>
- Create an account with your NGWA ID number or your Drivers License Number
- 400 locations nationwide
- Exams are live proctored
- Cost is \$75 for members for CWD and CPI exams and \$125 for CVCLD exam



# After the Exams

- Receive a print-out of your exam
- Submit your exam score card(s) to your licensing agency
- Your scores are reported to NGWA automatically
- If applying for the NGWA Voluntary Certification Program you should submit your completed application within 12 months of your last qualifying exam.  
For example: Mud exam 1/6/2025, General Drilling exam 12/23/2025 you have until 12/23/2026 to submit your application

## ***What if I fail the exam?***

- Look at your section percentages to see which section you need to improve
- Write down questions or concepts that were challenging you
- Contact NGWA for help
- Seek the advice drillers/pump installers with experience



# NGWA Voluntary Certification Program



**Kristen Frederick, Certification Manager**  
**kfrederick@ngwa.org**  
**Ext. 1526**

- Started in 1970
- Certifications: Well Driller, Pump Installer, Vertical Closed Loop Driller, Master Groundwater Contractor
- Only national certification program for contractors and pump installers in the groundwater industry, 14 states and two counties have adopted NGWA exams for their own licensure programs
- Designed and governed by groundwater professionals for groundwater professionals
- Set realistic expectations and guidelines and high standards to ensure integrity

