

wellcare[®] information for you about Well Components: Your Pitless Adapter

A pitless adapter is attached to your well casing to provide a sanitary and frost-proof seal between the casing and the water line running to your home. This device protects the water from freezing and permits convenient access to the well and well components without having to dig around the well.

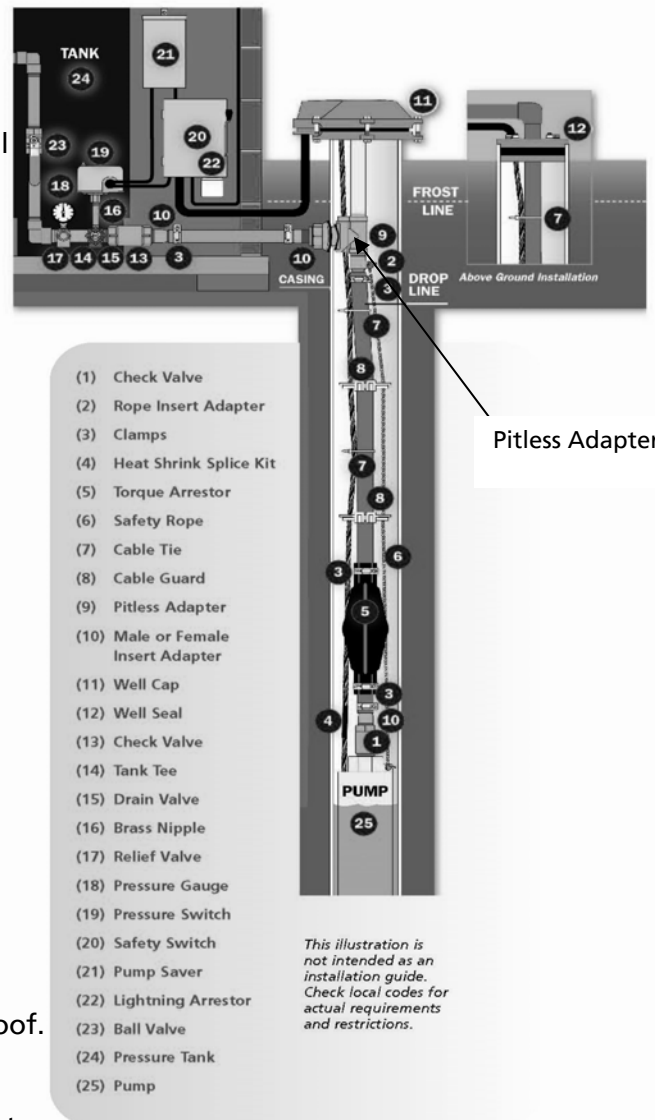
The adapter is connected to the well casing below the frost line, which is the depth at which the ground does not freeze. Water from the well is diverted horizontally at the adapter to prevent it from freezing.

In the past, a well pit was the most common way to gain access to well pipe connections below the freeze line. But well pits are generally unsanitary, allowing drainage into the well from surface and near-surface water sources that could be contaminated.

Pitless well construction sharply reduces the potential for contaminated water to enter your well. A pitless adapter also costs much less to install than a well pit.

There are three basic types of pitless equipment for your well: units, kits and adapters. All are watertight and frost-proof. Ask your well professional to use only an adapter that has been tested to meet industry standards. PAS-97(04) is an industry standard for Pitless Adapters. A listing of equipment that meets this standard is available on the Water Systems Council website: www.watersystemscouncil.org/standards.

Typical Water Well System



Protecting Your Drinking Water

The pitless adapter is one of three parts that make up your wellhead. The wellhead consists of the pitless adapter, the well casing and the well cap. The wellhead is your first line of defense to prevent pollutants from penetrating your drinking water system.

Inspect your wellhead regularly to make sure it is in good condition. Take care when working or mowing around the wellhead, which is easy to damage with heavy equipment. Don't pile snow, leaves or other materials around the wellhead, where they potentially can carry pollutants into the system.

Finally, hire a certified well professional to perform any new well construction or modification, or to close an old well. A professional can ensure that the pitless adapter, well casing and well cap are sanitary and secure.

For more information on Your Pitless Adapter

Water Systems Council. (2006). Chapter 3: Pitless Adapters, Pitless Units, Pitless Kits, and Watertight Well Caps. In Book IV of the *Water Systems Handbook* (12th Edition).

For more information on your drinking water

The following websites provide up-to-date information on efforts to protect drinking water supplies and steps you can take as a private well owner. In addition, you may contact the wellcare® hotline at 1-888-395-1033.

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Drink Well™ Well Water Testing
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Water Quality Association

www.uldrinkwell.com
www.epa.gov
www.wqa.org

For more information about wells and other wellcare® publications

wellcare® is a program of the Water Systems Council (WSC). WSC is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the wider use of wells as modern and affordable safe drinking water systems and to protecting ground water resources nationwide. This publication is one in a series of wellcare® information sheets. There were more than 60 available at the time this document was published. They can be downloaded FREE from the WSC website at www.watersystemscouncil.org. Well owners and others with questions about wells or ground water can also contact the wellcare® hotline at 888-395-1033 or visit www.wellcarehotline.org



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