

## wellcare® information for Well Contractors

# Pressure Tank Pre-charge



Before installing a pressure tank, the tank's air pressure should be checked. Do not assume that all tanks are pre-charged to suit your installation, as standards vary across tank types and manufacturers. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to properly adjust pre-charge below the pump cut-in pressure. ***Failure to properly adjust the air pressure may result in poor system performance and reduced life of the system's components.***

### Checking Pre-charge before Installation

It is easiest for the installer to check the pre-charge of the tank prior to plumbing the tank into the system. Checking the pre-charge before installation also allows the installer to adjust for different pressure system settings and to adjust for the customer's drawdown requirement.

### Why is it Important to have the Correct Pre-charge?

There are a number of reasons why it is important to have the correct pre-charge, including:

- To prevent interruption of water flow caused by a pre-charge that is too high;
- To prevent excessive cycling, which can lead to premature failure of the pressure switch, pump or tank;
- To improve customer satisfaction, as it relates to drawdown capacity or system water pressure; and
- To maximize system efficiency.

### Adjusting the Pre-charge When the Tank is in Service

To check the air charge in a tank that has already been installed in the system:

1. Shut off electric power to the pump
2. Open a faucet near the tank, and
3. Drain completely.
4. Then, follow the instructions for adjusting pre-charge prior to installation, per the manufacturer's instructions.

For more information on pressure tanks see our *Water Systems Handbook* and our wellcare® information sheet on *Sizing a Pressure Tank* at [www.watersystemscouncil.org](http://www.watersystemscouncil.org).

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**wellcare®** is a program of the **Water Systems Council (WSC)**. **WSC** is the only national organization solely focused on protecting the health and water supply of the 43 million people nationwide who depend on household wells for their water supply.

This publication is one in a series of **wellcare®** information sheets. There are more than 90 information sheets available **FREE** at [www.watersystemscouncil.org](http://www.watersystemscouncil.org).

Well owners and others with questions about wells or groundwater can also contact the **FREE** wellcare® Hotline at 1-888-395-1033 or visit [www.wellcarehotline.org](http://www.wellcarehotline.org).

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