

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

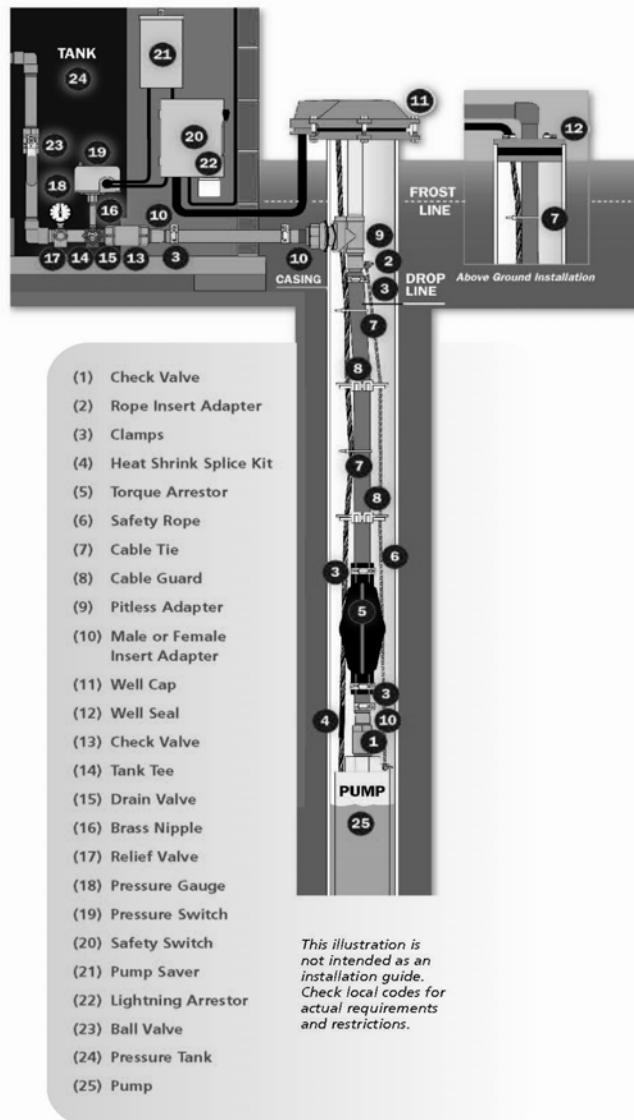
Your well system is made up of a pump, a storage tank and various accessories that operate the system automatically. The pump delivers water from the well to the tank, where it is held under pressure. The tank holds the water until you need it.

In a pressure tank, compressed air in the tank acts like a coiled spring, pushing the water in the water chamber. If no water is being used, the tank will continue to fill until the pressure reaches a set point, usually 40, 50 or 60 pounds per square inch (psi). A pressure switch then signals the pump to stop.

When a valve is opened in your system, such as the kitchen tap, air pressure in the tank forces the water to flow out of the tank and into the pipes. The pressure falls as the water flows out of the tank. When it drops to the start-up setting of the pressure switch, usually 20, 30 or 40 psi, the pump starts again until the tank is filled.

There are three main types of ANSI-approved pressure tanks: diaphragm or bladder tanks with a complete separation between the air and water; plain tanks with a float or wafer separating air and water; and plain steel tanks. Your well professional can determine which tank to use based on your well yield and your household water needs.

Typical Water Well System



A low-yielding well serving a high-demand household may require a second bulk storage or water retention tank. This is usually installed beside the pressure tank. One benefit is that simple gravity allows the bulk storage tank to operate even during power outages.

For more information on Your Well Tank

Water Systems Council. (2006). Chapter 1: Pressure Tanks. In Book IV of the *Water Systems Handbook* (12th Edition).

Water Systems Council. (September 2003). Information sheet on "Sizing a Pressure Tank." Available at www.watersystemscouncil.org/wellcare/infosheets.cfm.

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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