

# wellcare® information for you about Well Components: Your Well Cap

The well cap seals the upper end of your well to prevent contaminants from entering the well. The watertight well cap covers and encloses the top of your well casing, while the top of the cap can be removed to service the well.

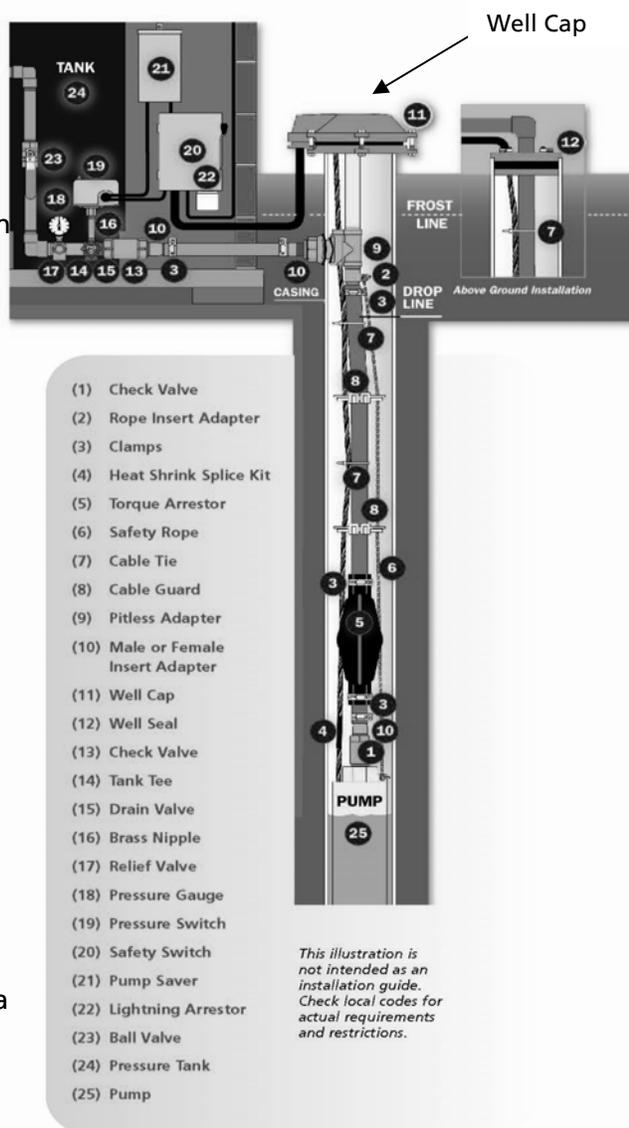
The well cap protects the exposed portion of the well casing, forms a protective cover from the elements and bars the entry of vermin or contaminants. It also should be tamper resistant.

Well caps are usually made of aluminum or a thermoplastic, and include a vented screen so that the pressure difference between the inside and outside of the well casing is equalized when water is pumped from the well.

The well casing and well cap should extend at least 12 inches above the ground. If your well is near a river or stream, it should extend at least higher than historic flood levels to prevent overflows from contaminating your drinking water.

A variety of high quality, watertight well caps are approved by the industry. Ask your water well professional to use only a well cap that meets industry standards. PAS-97(4) is an industry standard for well caps. A listing of equipment that meets this standard is available on the Water Systems Council website:  
[www.watersystemscouncil.org/standards](http://www.watersystemscouncil.org/standards).

Typical Water Well System



## Protecting Your Well Cap

The well cap is your first line of defense to prevent pollutants from penetrating your drinking water system. Inspect your well cap 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 well casing and well cap are sanitary and secure.

## For more information on Your Well Cap

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

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## 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](http://www.uldrinkwell.com)  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)  
[www.wqa.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.wellcarehotline.org)



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