

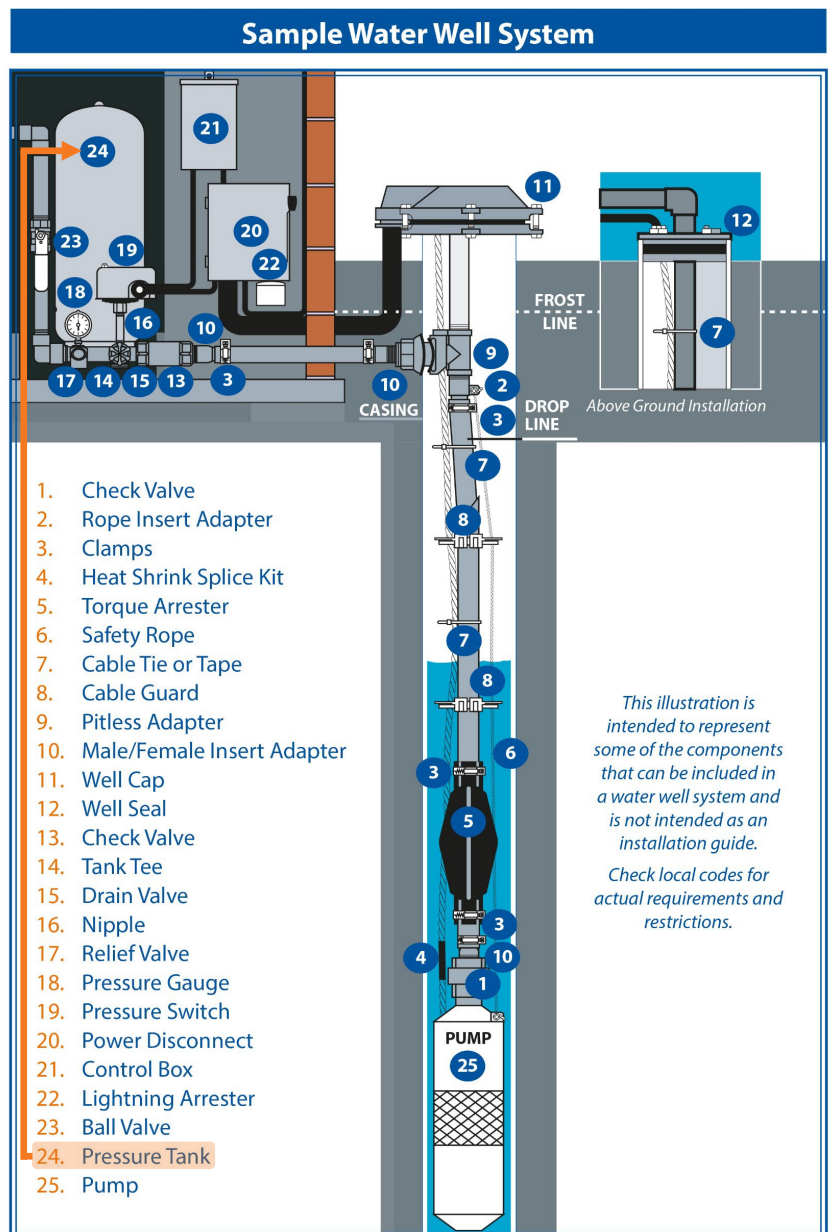
WELL COMPONENTS: YOUR WELL TANK

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 50, 60, or 70 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 30, 40, or 50 psi, the pump starts again until the tank is filled.

The two most common tanks for residential wells are diaphragm or bladder tanks and plain steel tanks. A low-yielding well serving a high-demand household may require a second bulk water storage tank. This is usually installed near the pressure tank. Your licensed well contractor can determine which tank to use based on your well yield and your household water needs. For a list of licensed well contractors in your area, use our [interactive map on our website](#). If you need help locating a licensed well contractor, contact the wellcare® Hotline at 1-888-395-1033. You can also view our information sheet on [Sizing a Pressure Tank](#).



For More Information on Well Tanks

Contact your licensed well contractor, local health department, state environmental agency, or the wellcare® Hotline. The Water Systems Council's *Water Systems Handbook* provides technical information on well maintenance and service.



Information to help maintain and protect your water well system:

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 an estimated 23 million households nationwide who depend on private wells (according to the U.S. EPA).

This publication is one of more than 100 wellcare® information sheets available FREE at www.watersystemscouncil.org.

Well owners and others with questions about wells and well water can contact the wellcare® Hotline at 1-888-395-1033 or visit www.wellcarehotline.org to fill out a contact form or chat with us live!

JOIN THE WELLCARE® WELL OWNERS NETWORK!

By joining the FREE wellcare® Well Owners Network, you will receive regular information on how to maintain your well and protect your well water.

Contact us at 1-888-395-1033 or visit www.wellcarehotline.org to join!