

# wellcare<sup>®</sup> information for you about

# Well Components:

# Your Well Tank

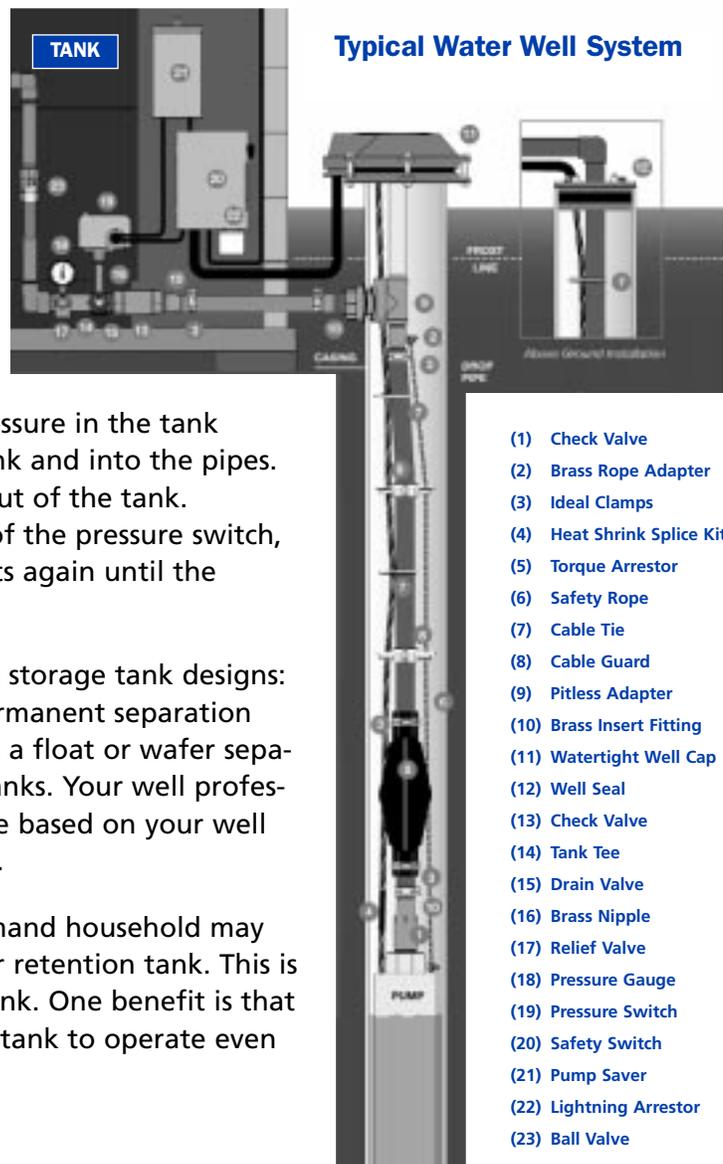
Your well system is made up of a pump, a storage tank and various accessories that operate the system automatically. The pump delivers water from the well to the tank, where it is held under pressure. The tank holds the water until you need it.

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 basic types of pressure storage tank designs: diaphragm or bladder tanks with a permanent separation between the air and water; 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.

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.



This list and schematic are not intended as installation guides.  
Check local codes for actual requirements and restrictions.

## For more information on well components

*Water Systems Handbook: A Complete Text on Wells*, published by Water Systems Council, 11th Edition, 2000. Available for a fee from [www.watersystemscouncil.org](http://www.watersystemscouncil.org) or by calling 202-625-4387.

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## 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 promote the wider use of wells as modern and affordable safe drinking water systems and to protect ground water resources nationwide.

**Well owners and others with questions about wells or well water can now call the new wellcare® hotline at 888-395-1033 or visit [www.watersystemscouncil.org](http://www.watersystemscouncil.org)**



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