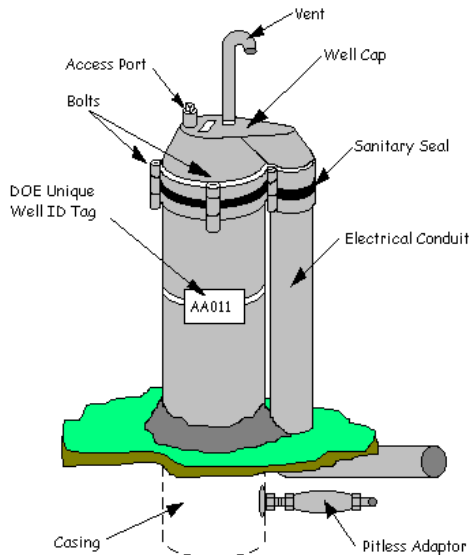


Periodic maintenance of your private well is necessary in order to ensure your drinking water is safe. The following checklist describes what you should look for when inspecting your personal water system. You should inspect your water system annually.

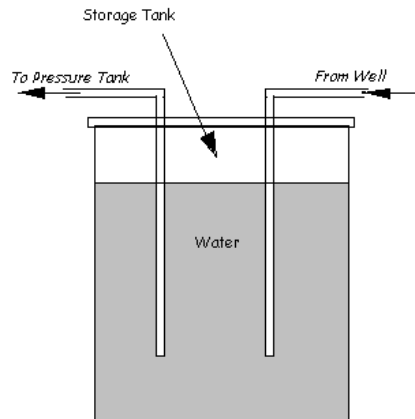


WELL HEAD

Most contamination problems are caused by a poor fitting well cap or break in the seal.

- Check for a rubber seal (sanitary seal) between the casing and the well cap.
- Jiggle the cap to check for looseness – the rubber seal may need replacing and/or the bolts may need tightening.
- Make sure the access port is plugged.
- If a vent is present, check to see that it is inverted and screened.
- If wires extend through the cap, seal around them with caulking.
- Do not store chemicals, gas, oil, etc., near the well head or in the pump house.
- Check for a well identification tag around the casing. Contact Mason County Department of Health Services to register your well with the voluntary well tagging program.

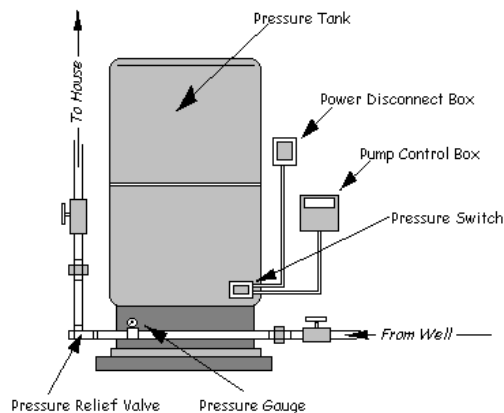
- Check that the casing extends at least a six inches above the ground, more if the area is subject to flooding. Contact a licensed well driller to extend the casing if it is too low.
- Check around the casing for gaps or holes between it and the soil. If large holes have formed, contact a licensed well driller to correct the problem.



STORAGE TANK

Your well system may have a non-pressurized storage tank in addition to a pressure tank. Many older storage tanks were set below ground and may be difficult to locate.

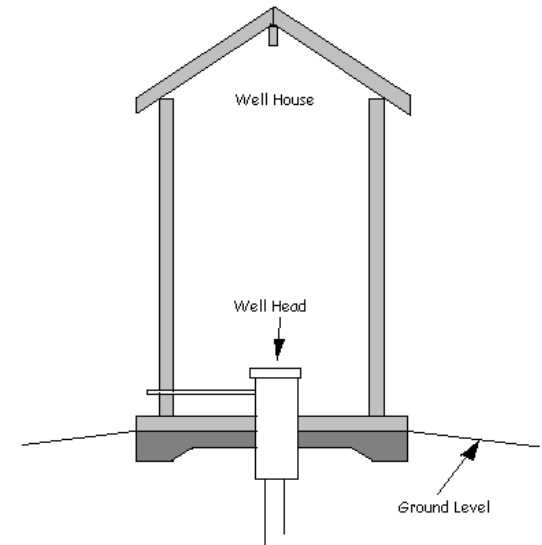
- Check the tank for cracks and holes. Even very small cracks will allow bacteria or insects to enter.
- Make sure any vents are inverted and screened.
- Make sure the cover is tightly fitted and sealed.



PRESSURE TANK

Pressurized storage ensures adequate water flow.

- Check for inconsistent fluctuations in pressure. The pressure can be checked with a tire gauge – refer to your tank's specifications.
- Protect bladder tank fittings from freezing temperatures – they are most vulnerable to freezing.



WELL HOUSE

Water system equipment should be protected in a well house.

- Insulate the well house and provide a heat source
- Check for signs of rodents and other pests. Plug or screen any gaps or holes in the walls and floor.
- Check for condensation or rust on the equipment and manifold. If moisture is present, install vents for cross ventilation.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Keep records of work done on your well and equipment.
- Test your water once a year for bacteria and every three years for nitrate.
- Keep an emergency supply of water in case of power failures.

LOCAL RESOURCES

Mason County Public Health

(360) 427-9670 ext 400

- Information on water quality testing
- Information on well construction and decommissioning
- Approves new wells and septic systems

Licensed Well Drillers

Refer to Mason County Yellow Pages

- Specialize in well drilling, pump testing, and equipment sizing
- Provide assistance on well operation, water quality and disinfection

Washington State Department of Ecology
360-407-6872

- Licenses well drillers; regulates well construction and decommissioning
- Maintains copies of well logs
- Issues water right permits



MASON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

Building, Planning, Environmental Health, Community Health

415 N. 6th St.
SHELTON, WA 98584

SHELTON (360) 427-9670 ext. 400
Fax (360) 427-7787

ALSO:

ELMA (360) 482-5269 ext. 400
BELFAIR (360) 275-4467 ext. 400

MAINTAINING YOUR WELL - STEPS TO SAFEGUARD YOUR WATER SUPPLY

