

Selecting a Company for Well and Pump Installation or Service

A well is a significant investment, and it's important to do research prior to choosing a driller or company to service your well and/or pump. It's best to obtain information about several contractors before selecting one and ensure you understand the work that needs to be completed. Below you'll find suggested research you can do, questions to ask yourself and the contractors, and information to collect throughout the well drilling and servicing processes.

Estimates and Written Contracts

Getting bids from at least three different contractors will help you identify the best option for the job at hand. Getting these in writing will help you make sure the estimates include comparable materials, services, and guarantees. Remember, a low bid is not necessarily the best bargain because the contractor may not have included the same work and materials quoted by competitors. When you select a contractor, be sure to obtain a written contract. You should also request the contract provides specific information such as:

- A statement describing the property owner's or driller's responsibility for obtaining all necessary authorizations and permits.
- A statement describing exactly what work is to be done.
- A statement that all work is to comply with local and state regulations and codes.
- Liability insurance coverage is held by both the owner and the contractor.
- The type of well development and yield evaluation procedures and the well disinfection procedure to be used.
- A list of the types of materials to be used and equipment to be installed. For example: casing, screens, pumps, well caps, pressure tanks, water meters, etc.
- The cleanup process after drilling, which includes all material abandoned without authorization at a drill site except drill cuttings and wastewater.
- The terms of any guarantee (contractor or manufacturer) on the well and well equipment.
- The expected date for starting and completing the work along with the payment schedule.

Costs

In the estimates, request an itemized list of charges. This is better than a lump sum because you can see and compare the materials that will be used along with the cost of labor. Some costs that could be included in this list are:

- Drilling per foot
- Casing per foot
- Materials such as drive shoe, grout, and well cap
- Operations such as grouting, developing (if longer than one hour, as in screened wells), test pumping, and disinfection
- Drilling deeper and/or a second well if required to ensure an adequate water supply
- Plugging and abandonment should it prove necessary (for instance, if poor water quality or low yields are encountered and another site is selected)

A list of additional potential costs that are not included in the specifications

Things to Consider and Questions to Ask

- Is the contractor familiar with the rules and construction standards of the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District?
- Is the contractor licensed with the state's Texas Department of Licensing & Registration?
- If so, is their license current and in good standing or do they have a history of complaints and enforcement? You should verify this information with Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) by visiting www.tdlr.texas.gov/LicenseSearch/LicenseSearch.asp.
- Does the contractor have experience with drilling wells in this area?
- How long has the company been in business?
- Can the contractor provide references?
- Are there references available that are not provided by the contractor?
- Does the contractor submit well logs?
- Does the contractor have adequate equipment in good condition to do the job?
- Does the contractor have adequate liability and workers' compensation insurance to protect you?
- Will the contractor furnish a written contract specifying the terms and conditions of the job?

Customer Follow Up

After the well has been constructed and before the contractor removes their equipment from the site, you should obtain information for your records such as:

- Well depth, water level, pump size, casing depth, and more.
- Well yield - how many gallons per minute (gpm) the well was tested for, what distance the water level dropped during the test, and how quickly the water level recovered after the test.
- Ask the contractor if the well was disinfected.

State well report - Make certain that you receive your copy of the state well report. The contractor is required to provide copies of the record to the owner and the groundwater district. It would be advisable to keep your well record with your house deed so the information is passed on to future owners.

Keep in Mind...

Drilling a well can result in many unforeseen circumstances. Once you've selected a contractor, trust their judgment in solving these unplanned difficulties. If original construction plans must be changed, take time to discuss options and potential costs with the contractor. Also, it's important to understand there's a chance the drilled well won't fulfill your original expectations. Even if it is properly constructed, the well's performance is highly dependent on the local aquifer conditions and may not yield the desired quantity or quality of water.



Local Well Drilling and Service Companies

Company Name	Point of Contact	City They're Based Out of	Phone	Email	Types of Projects
Aart's Well Service	Aart Pot	Dripping Springs	(512) 829-4808	aartswaterwell@yahoo.com	Residential, small-scale commercial
Bee Cave Drilling, Inc.	Daniel Champeau	Dripping Springs	(512) 701-6784	daniel@beecavedrilling.com	Residential, commercial, public water supply
Central Texas Drilling	Erin Elizabeth Aaron Glass	Dripping Springs	(512) 894- 0555	erin@ctdwaterwells.com	Residential, commercial, public water supply
Geoprojects International	Pat Goodson	Austin	(512) 965-0331	pgoodson@mac.com	Residential, commercial, public water supply
Glass Well Service	Mason Stevens	Austin	(512) 288-1963	office@glasswellservice.com	Residential, commercial
Hydro Resources		Creedmoor	(512) 858-4375	jbarrum@hydroresources.com	Commercial, public water supply
Kutscher Drilling Ltd.	Daniel Kutscher	San Marcos	(512) 353-0075	kutscherdrilling@yahoo.com	Residential, commercial, public water supply
Texan Water	Bryce Bormann Chris Knox	Marble Falls	(512) 823-0000	texan@texanwater.com	Residential, commercial, public water supply
Zavala Drilling	Raul Zavala Melissa Peralta	Jasper	(409) 383-9414	zavaladrilling@hotmail.com	Residential, commercial

Local Well and Pump Service Companies

Company Name	Point of Contact	City They're Based Out of	Phone	Email	Types of Projects
Dave's Well Service	David McBride	Manchaca	(512) 280-7642	dmcb55@sbcglobal.net	Residential
Lovelace Water Well Service	Jams Lovelace	Dripping Springs	(512) 858-7965	jamesmlovelace@yahoo.com	Residential, commercial
Pat Lyle Water Services	Pat Lyle	Dripping Springs	(512) 217-2305	patlyle74@gmail.com	Residential, commercial