



Cabin Well Drilling General Information

Clearwater Wells offers cabin well drilling for remote and off-grid sites using our lightweight, F150 tracked rigs. If you are interested in getting a well at your remote property, please read the information below, or you can always call us at 907-795-2531 with questions!

Drill rig information: This air rotary drill rig only weighs about 7500 lbs. and is designed to travel across mud, snow, frozen lakes and rivers, or any difficult terrain that requires a lightweight, nimble machine. This rig can drill up to approximately 200'-280' depending on the formation. We use 5' threaded sticks of 4" steel for the well casing.



Well diameter: This rig drills 4" wells only. Although 4" wells are smaller in diameter than your typical 6" wells, the volume is more than adequate for cabin and basic residential use (as long as the well's recovery rate is sufficient). A 4" well will require a 3" diameter submersible pump. We typically use the Grundfos 10SQ-series pumps.



Access: Generally, we drill off-road wells in the winter. We use two F150 pickups on tracks to access your property. Each truck is towing an air compressor or a trailer on skis. The width of the F150s with tracks is 7 ½ feet so the trail must be at least that wide. The rigs are designed to be lightweight so that they can safely travel across most frozen lakes and streams.

The area where you want the well drilled should be fairly level and clear of trees so that our F150 drill rig can fit in the area. We do bring an F150 support truck with a plow to break trail, build snow bridges, and clear areas, but if significant additional labor is required to access the well site, it may affect final pricing. Permitting is required for us to cross salmon streams and to use certain trails so we do look closely at stream crossings and other trail information prior to traveling.

Site Selection: Well sites should be 100' from any septic system or outhouse. Boroughs and municipalities require this separation distance, but even if your property is outside of a borough, we still strongly recommend following this DEC recommendation. Site selection is ultimately up to the customer, although our driller is happy to provide input and guidance.

Pricing: Rather than charging substantial mobilization fees to each individual customer, we instead establish a total minimum that needs to be met for us to mobilize our offroad rigs. Our minimum ranges from \$10K - \$25K depending on the distance from our shop in Wasilla, difficulty and distance of off-road access, and other factors. This can be expensive for one individual customer to meet so we work with our customers to coordinate multiple wells in an area.



Once we have at least 2-3 wells in an area, the tracked rig drilling price usually ranges from \$120/foot to \$150/foot, usually with a 60' to 65' minimum per well. If we have multiple wells in an area, each individual typically pays about \$8000-\$10,000 for drilling a 60' well. If a well is going to be significantly deeper, then we may be able to reduce the per-foot price. A pump install through the top of the well is an additional charge that ranges from \$2200-\$3000. There are a few other incidental charges so we provide each customer with a full estimate.

We usually have enough wells to schedule a drilling trip into the Homer area, broader Skwentna area, and Trapper Creek/Petersville area between January and April. Please contact us to get on a list for another area so that we can look at expanding into it!



Pump Installs: We can install a pump through the top of the well while we are still drilling in the area. We offer a ½ hp, 115 volt, 3" submersible pump option (Grundfos 10SQ-series) that works great in 4" wells and with lower-wattage generators and solar. For deeper wells, a different pump may be needed. We drill a weephole in the drop pipe to help prevent freezing issues. Please see picture to see how the final well typically looks like with a pump install through the top.

Contact Us: When you contact us, it always helps if you can send us a pin via Google Maps or OnX Maps, or latitude/longitude in decimal format, and information on trail and site access. For more information and a detailed estimate, please call us at 907-795-2531 or email info@clearwaterwells.com. Check out all our cool rigs and more information at facebook.com/clearwaterwells and clearwaterwells.com!