



Selecting a Contractor

Protect Your Well Water with a Licensed Contractor

Over 40 percent of California's water comes from groundwater. To remove it from the ground requires a water well and a pumping system. California law specifies that any person drilling a well must have a C-57 license. Persons installing pumps must also have a license, usually a C-61.

To prevent contamination of groundwater supplies and to ensure your water system will operate properly for many years, insist on a qualified groundwater professional for your water needs. Whether they operate large or small businesses, professional drilling or pump contractors have the following traits in common.

Professional drilling or pump contractors are:

LICENSED. The State of California has adopted standards for licensing drilling and pump contractors. Only those who meet the standards by testing qualify for a state license.

EXPERIENCED/KNOWLEDGEABLE. Drilling or water system installation skills cannot be learned overnight. A professional drilling or pump contractor is familiar with all kinds of wells and pumps.

INSURED & SAFETY CONSCIOUS. There are inherent dangers to drilling a well or installing a water system. The contractor who carries both workers' compensation insurance and liability insurance has protected you in the event of damage to your property and injury to his workers while work is being performed on your property.

HOW TO SELECT A PROFESSIONAL

Because an informed customer is a good customer, find out as much as you can about the contractor you are considering. Call the CGA office for contractor referrals. Once you've contacted these contractors, ask those that bid on your job for the following:

- Evidence of their State contractor's license and a license number.
- A written proposal that outlines what work is to be done, the amount that is to be charged, and the terms of the guarantee given.
- Proof of liability insurance, which protects you against personal injury to you or others and against damage to your property or the property of others while the contractor is working on your job.
- A list of customer references. Check the customer references. Be sure the contractor has performed as promised.



Be careful not to base your selection on price alone. A low bid is not necessarily the best bargain. If you have any doubts, call the Contractors' State License Board. You will find out quickly if there have been a number of unresolved complaints about the contractor.

TO CHECK A LICENSE, CALL THE CONTRACTOR'S STATE LICENSE BOARD
at (800) 321-2752 OR VISIT THEIR WEBSITE...at www.cslb.ca.gov

BEWARE OF *UNLICENSED* DRILLERS & PUMP INSTALLERS

Not all drilling or pump contractors are licensed, and too many property owners have paid dearly for using unqualified persons. This type of unlicensed operator is generally uninsured and probably lacking in experience. They may use high pressure or scare tactics, and "bonus offers" to get your business. If you do use an unlicensed, uninsured firm or individual, don't be misled into believing that your homeowner's or personal liability policy necessarily protects you. A large number of property owners have been dragged into litigation involving uninsured contractors. If an employee of an unlicensed, uninsured contractor is injured on your property, you may be responsible for his injuries or disabilities.

In addition, you probably have no protection in the event damage is done to your property or the property of others by the driller or pump installer during the course of the work. Often the end result of using an unlicensed driller is a bad job or the wrong approach to the project, which will cost you more in the long run.

For further information, contact:

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