



An Extended Guide · No. 1714

Choosing the Right Pro for Well-Pump Backup

Who does what, and
how to hire well

Tech Made Simple — Service Made Personal

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! Read this first — on a well, no power means no water

On a home with a private well, a power outage isn't just dark — it's dry. The pump that lifts your water runs on your home's electricity, so when the power stops, every tap, toilet, and hose stops with it. Keep a few days of stored drinking water on hand as a backup you can count on — a common guideline is about a gallon per person per day. And know this from the start: a well pump is almost always a 240-volt appliance wired straight into your electrical panel, so any backup hookup for it is a licensed electrician's job. Never try to feed it with a cord or by backfeeding an outlet — that is unsafe, against code, and can put deadly voltage on the power lines outside. Some of this work — the panel hookup especially — must be done by a licensed pro, so choosing a good one matters. This guide helps you find people you can trust and know who does what.

Choosing the right pro for well-pump backup

A well-water backup plan often takes a pro or two — an electrician, a well contractor, maybe a generator installer. This guide helps you know who does what, and how to find people you can trust.

I'm Bill, and I run Bill's Home Tech here in Portage County, Ohio. I help with the planning and the everyday tech, but the licensed work — wiring, the pump itself, gas lines — belongs to specialists. Choosing good ones is one of the most important things you will do, so let's make it straightforward.

The good news is that Portage County has plenty of honest, skilled trades folks. Knowing who to call for what, and what a good pro looks like, means you get quality work at a fair price — and I am glad to help you line them up.

★ Need a trustworthy local pro?

Lining up honest, fairly priced pros is a big part of what I do. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042 and I will help you find the right one for your job.

The whole thing, in about a minute

If you remember only these things, you will hire well.

- ❑ Different jobs need different pros — electrician, well contractor, generator installer, plumber, septic pro.
- ❑ For the panel hookup and any 240-volt wiring, use a licensed electrician — always.
- ❑ Choose licensed, insured pros who pull permits and welcome inspection.
- ❑ Get more than one quote, and compare care and clarity, not just price.
- ❑ Walk away from anyone who skips permits, is pushy, or suggests a backfeed.
- ❑ I can help you find the right pro and sit on your side of the table.

✓ Right pro, right job

Matching the job to the right kind of pro is half the battle. The other half is choosing a good one — licensed, insured, and honest.

Who does what

A well-water backup plan can touch several trades. Here is who handles each part.

- **Licensed electrician** — the transfer switch or interlock, the generator hookup, 240-volt wiring, surge protection, and confirming an old hookup is safe.
- **Well or pump contractor** — the pump itself, the pressure tank, a hand pump, a low-water cutoff, and anything about the well.
- **Generator installer or dealer** — installing and sizing a standby generator, and its maintenance.
- **Plumber** — pipes, the water heater, winterizing, and draining the system.
- **Septic professional** — the septic or grinder pump, the high-water alarm, and the tank.

Some pros wear more than one hat — a well contractor may handle both the pump and the pressure tank, for instance. But the panel and 240-volt wiring is always a licensed electrician's job. Knowing these lanes helps you call the right person the first time.

✓ The electrician's lane is firm

Whatever else varies, the panel hookup and 240-volt wiring belong to a licensed electrician, every time. That one is never a gray area.

What a good pro looks like

Across every trade, the signs of a pro worth hiring are much the same. Here is what to look for.

- **Licensed for the work** — properly credentialed for the trade, as your state or county requires.
- **Insured** — carrying liability insurance, so you are protected if something goes wrong.
- **Pulls permits** — and welcomes inspection, rather than avoiding them.
- **Clear and patient** — explains the work in plain terms and answers your questions without rushing you.
- **Well regarded locally** — with references or a solid reputation among neighbors.

A good pro is happy to show proof of license and insurance, gives you a clear written quote, and never makes you feel foolish for asking. Those qualities matter as much as skill — you want someone trustworthy in your home and standing behind their work.

✓ Ask for license and insurance

A reputable pro will gladly show proof of licensing and insurance. If someone is reluctant, that tells you what you need to know — keep looking.

Why permits and inspections are your friend

Some folks see permits as red tape. For work like this, they are protection you want.

A permit means the work is registered and will be checked by an independent inspector against the safety codes. For a generator hookup or any 240-volt wiring, that inspection is a real safeguard — confirmation that the transfer switch, the wiring, and the connections are safe and done right. It protects you, your home, and anyone who works on your electrical system later.

A pro who wants to skip the permit 'to save time and money' is a warning sign, not a bargain. The savings are small and the risk is real: unpermitted work can be unsafe, can cause trouble with insurance, and can complicate a future home sale. Insist on permits for the work that needs them.

! Skipping permits is a red flag

If a pro suggests skipping the permit for electrical or gas work, that is a reason to look elsewhere. The permit and inspection are exactly the protection you are paying for.

Get more than one quote

For any sizable job, two or three quotes give you perspective — and it is about more than price.

Getting several quotes lets you compare not just the cost, but how carefully each pro assessed your needs. For a generator, did they factor in your pump's startup surge, or just quote a size off a brochure? For a standby, did they size the fuel for a long outage? The quote itself tells you how thorough each pro is.

The lowest number is not always the best value, and the highest is not always the most thorough. Look for the pro who understood your situation, explained the work clearly, and gave a fair, complete quote. That is usually the one to choose. I am glad to review quotes with you if it helps.

★ Let me help you compare quotes

Comparing quotes is easier with someone who knows what to look for. Send me what you have received — call or text (330) 200-8042 — and I will help you weigh them honestly.

Red flags to walk away from

A few warning signs should send you looking elsewhere, no matter how good the price sounds.

- **No license or insurance** — or reluctance to show proof of either.
- **Wants to skip the permit** — 'to save you money' on work that legally needs one.
- **Suggests a backfeed** or any cord-to-the-pump shortcut — that alone disqualifies them.
- **High-pressure sales** — rushing you, scare tactics, or 'today only' pricing.
- **Cash-only, no paperwork** — no written quote, no receipt, no warranty.

Any one of these is reason enough to keep looking. The backfeed suggestion is the most telling: a pro who would propose something that dangerous and illegal should not be touching your electrical system at all. Trust your instincts — a good pro earns your confidence, not your pressure.

! A backfeed suggestion ends the conversation

If anyone — pro or otherwise — suggests powering your pump by backfeeding an outlet, do not hire them. It is deadly and illegal, and it tells you all you need to know.

Finding good local pros out here

In a rural community, the best pros are often found the old-fashioned way. Here is how to track them down.

- **Ask your neighbors** — word of mouth is gold in the country; folks are happy to name a good electrician or well driller.
- **Ask your well company** — if you know who services your well, they often know reputable electricians and installers.
- **Check local reputation** — long-established local firms with good standing are usually a safe bet.
- **Verify licensing** — your state or county can confirm a pro is properly licensed for the work.
- **Ask me** — lining up trustworthy local pros is part of what I do.

Local well drillers and electricians who have worked the area for years know the local wells, the soil, the common setups, and the inspectors. That local knowledge is worth a lot — they have likely seen a home just like yours before.

✓ Word of mouth is gold out here

Ask neighbors who they trust for well and electrical work. In a rural community, a good reputation is hard-earned and freely shared — it is the best lead you can get.

Questions to ask any pro

A handful of questions quickly tells you whether a pro is the right one. Ask them plainly.

Q: Are you licensed and insured for this work?

A good pro answers yes and offers proof. Reluctance is your answer.

Q: Will you pull a permit and have it inspected?

For electrical, gas, or well work, this should be a clear yes — part of doing it right.

Q: Have you done well-pump backup work before?

Experience with your kind of job — especially the pump's startup surge — matters.

Q: Can you give me a written quote and references?

A clear written quote and a few references are the marks of a pro who stands behind their work.

You are not being difficult by asking these — you are being a smart customer, and a good pro will respect that. The answers, and how willingly they are given, tell you almost everything.

✓ How they answer matters too

A good pro welcomes these questions and answers plainly. One who bristles or dodges is telling you something. Trust that.

Two kinds of homes, two sets of needs

Choosing pros matters for any home, but a well home usually needs a couple more trades in the mix.

If you live in town or the suburbs

In town or the suburbs on city water, your backup pros are mainly an electrician for the hookup and perhaps a generator installer. There is no well pump or well contractor in the picture, which keeps things simpler.

- Mainly an electrician, and perhaps a generator installer.
- No well contractor needed — no pump or well to service.
- The same standards apply: licensed, insured, permitted.
- A plumber may still matter for a sump pump or winterizing.

If you are out in the country on a well

Out in the country on a well, you may work with more trades — an electrician, a well or pump contractor, maybe a generator installer and a septic pro. Coordinating them is part of the job.

- Likely an electrician plus a well or pump contractor at minimum.
- A standby generator adds an installer; a septic pump adds a septic pro.
- Local well drillers who know the area's wells are especially valuable.
- Coordinating several trades is where a friendly point of contact helps.

★ I will coordinate the trades for you

Juggling an electrician, a well contractor, and maybe more is a lot. Call me at (330) 200-8042 and I will help line them up and keep everyone on the same page.

Verifying a license is easier than you think

You do not have to take a pro's word for their license. Checking is simple and worth doing for big jobs.

States and counties keep records of licensed trades, and many let you look up a contractor's license online or by a quick phone call. For an electrician or a well contractor doing significant work, a moment's check confirms they are properly credentialed and in good standing. A legitimate pro will not mind at all — they expect it.

Insurance is worth verifying too, especially for larger jobs — you can ask for a certificate of insurance. These small checks protect you from the rare bad actor and give you confidence in the good ones. If you are not sure how to check in our area, I am glad to help.

✓ A quick check, real peace of mind

Verifying a license and insurance takes a few minutes and protects a big investment. Any honest pro expects and welcomes it.

How I fit in — your friendly coordinator

This guide is really about the licensed pros, but let me be clear about where I fit, since it is a common question.

I am a patient tech helper with 30-plus years of experience — not a licensed electrician, well contractor, or gas fitter, and I never pretend otherwise. What I do is help you plan the whole thing, understand your options, get your pump's numbers, choose the right gear, and then find and coordinate the licensed pros who do the hands-on work.

Think of me as the person in your corner and your single point of contact — the one who helps you ask the right questions, keeps the trades on the same page, and makes sure nothing falls through the cracks. For many folks, especially seniors, having one friendly coordinator makes the whole project far less daunting.

★ One friendly point of contact

Rather than juggling several trades yourself, let me help coordinate them. Call or text (330) 200-8042 and I will keep the whole project on track.

Getting ready to hire

A little preparation before you call makes for better quotes and a smoother job.

- ❑ Gather your pump's numbers — horsepower and voltage — and any well records.
- ❑ Decide what you want — portable or standby, what circuits to cover, the pump first.
- ❑ Write down your questions, including license, insurance, and permit.
- ❑ Line up two or three pros to quote, so you can compare.
- ❑ Have your calendar handy, and note any access details for your panel and well.

Coming prepared tells a pro you are a serious, informed customer, which often earns their best work and a fair price. It also makes the quotes more accurate, since they have the facts they need up front. Our sizing guide helps you gather the pump details.

★ Let's prepare together

I can help you gather everything a pro will need before they even arrive. Call or text (330) 200-8042 and we will get you ready to hire well.

Building a relationship for the long haul

The best outcome is not just one good job — it is a pro you can call again for years.

A well-water home has ongoing needs: the pump gets serviced, the generator needs maintenance, the occasional repair comes up. Finding a good electrician and a good well contractor you trust, and sticking with them, means you have someone who knows your home when something goes wrong. That relationship is worth cultivating.

Treat your good pros well — pay promptly, be reasonable, recommend them to neighbors — and they will look after you in return, often fitting you in faster when you need help. In a rural community, those relationships are part of what makes country living work.

✓ A trusted pro is worth keeping

Once you find a good electrician or well contractor, stick with them. A pro who knows your home is a genuine asset when something needs attention.

A few common myths, gently corrected

A few beliefs about hiring can lead you astray. Here is the honest version.

The myth	The honest truth
The cheapest quote is the best deal.	Value is care and thoroughness, not just the lowest number.
Permits are just red tape and cost.	They are an independent safety check that protects you.
Any handyman can wire a transfer switch.	Panel and 240-volt wiring is licensed-electrician work.
One pro can do everything.	Different trades handle the pump, wiring, gas, and septic.

✓ **Value over price**

The best pro is rarely the cheapest and rarely the most expensive — it is the one who understood your job and will do it right. Hire for value, not just price.

What I can do — and what the pros do

Here is the honest division of labor, one more time.

- **What I do:** help you plan, get your pump's numbers, choose gear, find and vet pros, review quotes, and coordinate the whole project.
- **A licensed electrician does** the transfer switch, interlock, and all 240-volt wiring.
- **A well or pump contractor does** the pump, tank, hand pump, and well work; a generator installer does a standby; a plumber and septic pro cover their parts.

The pros do the licensed, hands-on work; I help you navigate it all and make sure the right people are doing the right jobs. That teamwork gets you a safe, complete result without you having to become an expert in five trades.

★ Your guide through the trades

You do not have to figure out who does what alone. Call or text (330) 200-8042 and I will help you assemble the right team for your home.

The mistakes that catch people out

Most hiring regret comes from a few avoidable slip-ups.

- **Hiring on price alone**, and getting rushed or incomplete work.
- **Skipping license and insurance checks**, and having no recourse if something goes wrong.
- **Letting a pro skip the permit**, trading safety for a small saving.
- **Using the wrong trade** — a handyman for panel wiring, say.
- **Not getting it in writing**, so the scope and warranty are unclear.

Our common-mistakes guide covers each in detail. Hiring licensed, insured pros who pull permits and give written quotes avoids nearly all of them.

✓ Written, licensed, permitted

Three words prevent most hiring regret: get it in writing, hire licensed pros, and insist on permits. Simple, and it protects you.

Questions worth asking before you hire

A few good questions, asked of yourself and the pro, lead to a good hire.

Q: Do I know which trade this job needs?

Match the job to the right pro — electrician for wiring, well contractor for the pump, and so on.

Q: Is this pro licensed and insured for it?

Confirm it, and verify if it is a big job. A good pro welcomes the check.

Q: Will there be a permit, inspection, and written quote?

For significant work, all three should be a clear yes.

Q: Have I compared a couple of quotes for value?

Look at thoroughness and clarity, not just the bottom line.

✓ Prepared questions, better hire

Walk in with these questions written down. They keep the conversation on track and help you spot the pro who is right for the job.

Common Questions

The questions I hear most about hiring for well-pump backup.

Q: Who installs the generator hookup for my well pump?

A licensed electrician. The transfer switch or interlock and any 240-volt wiring is their trade, and it should be permitted and inspected.

Q: Do I need different pros for different parts?

Often yes — an electrician for the wiring, a well or pump contractor for the pump and tank, and perhaps a generator installer or septic pro. I can help coordinate them.

Q: How do I know a pro is trustworthy?

Look for licensed, insured, permit-pulling pros with good local standing and clear written quotes. Ask neighbors, and verify the license. Walk away from anyone who suggests a backfeed.

Q: Can you recommend someone?

Lining up trustworthy local pros is part of what I do. Call or text me and I will help you find the right one for your job.

★ Still have a question? That is what I am here for

There is no silly question. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042 and we will find you the right people.

A gentle word about cost

Good pros cost a fair price, and that is money well spent on work that must be right.

Licensed, insured, permitted work costs a bit more than a corner-cutting alternative — and it is worth every penny on something as important as your electrical system or your well. The cheapest quote that skips permits or uses the wrong trade is no bargain if it fails inspection, causes damage, or has to be redone. Pay for it done right the first time.

I do not take any cut from the pros I recommend and earn nothing on your hiring choices, so my advice is just honest advice. My own help — planning, vetting, and coordinating — is a flat \$99 first visit with a 30-day come-back-free guarantee, and often I can advise right on your screen for \$49.

★ Done right is the real bargain

The best value is safe, permitted work from a pro who understood the job. I am glad to help you find that pro and make sure you get a fair price from them.

Bringing it all together

If this guide did its job, hiring feels manageable instead of murky. Here it is in three lines.

- ❑ **Right pro, right job:** electrician for wiring, well contractor for the pump, and so on.
- ❑ **Choose well:** licensed, insured, permit-pulling, clear, and locally trusted.
- ❑ **Protect yourself:** get quotes, get it in writing, and walk away from red flags.

Do that and you will assemble a team you can trust — for this project and for years of well-water living to come. And you never have to do the choosing alone; that is exactly what I am here for.

★ And whenever you would like a hand

That is exactly what I do — come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042.

You don't have to do this alone

You just have to remember that a friendly, patient person is one call away.

I hope this guide made choosing the right pros for your well-pump backup feel a little less daunting and a lot more doable. Keep it in a drawer with your other home papers, come back to a page whenever you need it, and don't worry about memorizing anything.

When you'd rather have a hand, that's exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. A first visit is a flat \$99, and for the parts that don't need me on-site I can often help right on your screen for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day, come-back-free guarantee. I don't do the licensed electrical or gas work myself — for that I'll help you line up a trustworthy local pro.

★ Bill's Home Tech — real help, close to home

Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, or visit BillsHomeTech.com. Serving Atwater and all of Portage County. 30+ years of patient, plain-English tech help — and if you're ever not 100% happy with a visit, I'll make it right or refund it. That's a promise. — Bill

Who Does What

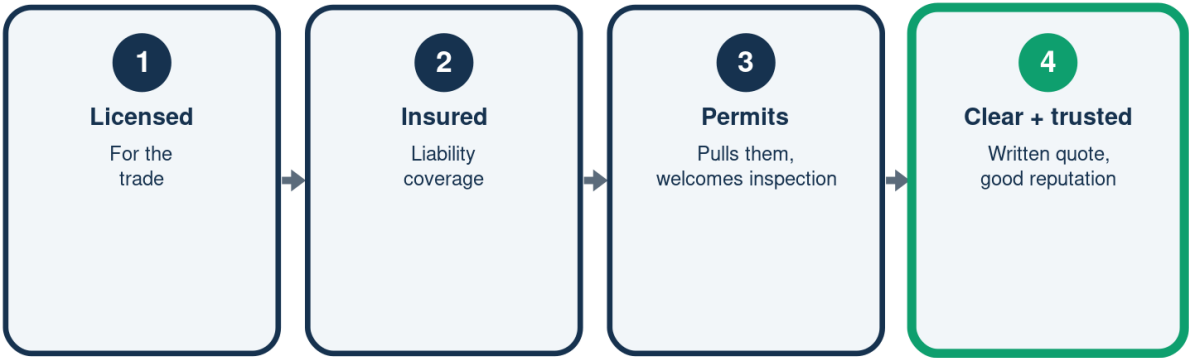
Match the job to the right trade

Job		The pro
Panel hookup	Transfer switch	Licensed electrician
The pump / tank	Pump, hand pump	Well contractor
Standby unit	Install + size	Generator installer
Septic pump	Pump + alarm	Septic pro

240-volt wiring is always a licensed electrician's job.

Choosing a Good Pro

The marks of one worth hiring



A good pro welcomes your questions and proof requests.

Good Sign vs. Red Flag

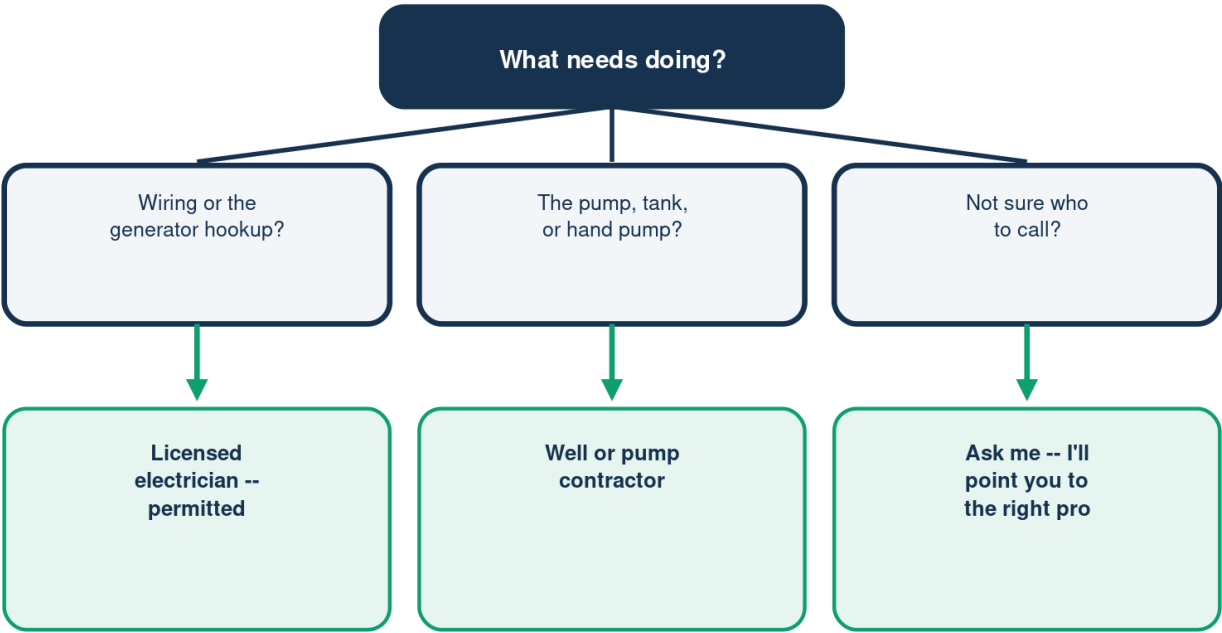
Know when to walk away

	Good sign	Red flag
License	Shows proof	Reluctant / none
Permits	Pulls them	Wants to skip
Sales style	Patient	High-pressure
The hookup	Transfer switch	Suggests a backfeed

A backfeed suggestion ends the conversation -- always.

Which Pro Do I Call?

Start from the job



Never hire anyone who suggests a backfeed or skips permits.

Illustration - a schematic, not to scale. Your setup may differ.



Need a Real Person?

You do not have to remember all of it.
You just have to remember you can call.
Friendly, in-home tech help -- I come to you.

BILL'S PROMISE

If you are not 100% happy with a visit, I will
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— Bill

Prefer help without a visit?

Bill can screen-share and fix many things remotely — a flat \$49, free for Support Plan members.



A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill.

I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that comes from using these guides. Thanks for reading, and stay safe out there.

— *Bill*



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