WELL DRILLERS — GUIDE

What does drilling a water well cost?

Separate a drilling allowance from the full cost of a working water supply.

Updated November 10, 2026

Start with the scope

Ask for a written estimate that separates drilling from the finished system. Angi's residential-well table gives US$25 to US$65 per foot. Its article was checked on 2026-11-10. This is a US planning range, not a local quote or a Canadian price.

At that range, a 200-foot allowance is US$5,000 to US$13,000. This is depth multiplied by the cited rate. It does not predict the depth your property needs. The source page has inconsistent summary wording. We use its residential per-foot table only.

Ask what the rate includes

Have each contractor mark whether the rate covers casing, grout, development, mobilisation and test pumping. Ask for separate prices for the pump, pressure tank, trench, electrical connection, treatment and laboratory work. Do not add casing again if it is already in the rate.

Keep a comparison sheet with columns for scope, quantity, unit, unit price, exclusions and total. Put currency beside every price. Ask whether taxes and travel are included. A low drilling rate is hard to compare if another quote includes a complete system.

Agree what happens if drilling changes

Ask how the driller will report progress and obtain approval for extra depth. Record the agreed stop point and how extra work is priced. Ask who pays if a hole is dry or cannot meet the intended demand. Do not treat a nearby well log as a guarantee.

For a farm, describe household use and irrigation separately. Ask the contractor to explain how they will assess yield and storage. In Minnesota, the health department describes a completion record and new-well testing for bacteria, nitrate and arsenic. This is a Minnesota example, not a rule for all markets.

Before accepting

Request the licence details, permit responsibilities and documents to be delivered. Keep the estimate, change approvals, well record, pump model and laboratory report together. Use our cost tool to compare allowances. Replace the planning rates with a written local quote before budgeting for construction.

Sources

- Angi, Michelle Nati, How Much Does Well Drilling Cost?. Fetched 2026-11-10.

• Minnesota Department of Health, Constructing a New Water-Supply Well in Minnesota. Fetched 2026-11-10.

Frequently asked questions

Does this replace local advice?

No. Confirm the work with the responsible agency and a qualified contractor.