

My well pump does not build up to pressure and turn off , what's wrong?

Well pumps typically operate by using a pressure sensing device such as a pressure switch or pressure transducer. This device tells the pump to turn on when the pressure is low and to turn off when pressure has increased to the maximum level. Using pressure is an indirect method to measure the flow needed for your needs. What this boils down to is one of two things: Excess water is flowing (a leak) or the pump is not pumping sufficient flow/pressure (worn pump). If there is a leak, the leak may be in the piping around the house, but it would have to be significant and easily noticeable. The leak can also be in the pipe that the pump is hanging on in the well. This pipe is often made of metal and holes develop after many years of service. This causes much of the water being pumped to be diverted back into the well and can result in inadequate pressure development and the pump simply runs all the time. More seriously, this high velocity water can erode/damage the well casing. A leak in the pipe down the well can often be heard by listening at the well head for a spraying noise when the pump is running. It is important to differentiate the spraying from the humming noise the pump makes or any trickling/dripping sounds that water flowing into the well casing makes.

If the pump has been in service for more than 7 or 8 years and the well has sand or other minerals that cause abrasion or deposits, the pump could very well be worn out or plugged up. While the motor still spins along nicely, the impellers often wear from minerals, sand, etc in the water and become less efficient over time. This decrease in efficiency leads to a decrease in the volume and pressure of water produced.

If the leak is down the well or the pump is worn out, the pump and pipe will all need to be removed from the well. When you go through the expense of removing your well pump, ensure that everything you put back down your well is up to the task of providing water for at least 10 years. If inspection determines that there is a hole in the pipe, we would recommend replacing the pipe with a metal pipe alternative that does not corrode and ensure your pipe lasts for many years! The wire and pump also need to be closely inspected & replaced if found to be defective or deteriorating.