

New Way To Drill Your Own Well

If you've checked the price of drilling a new well lately, you know you're looking at an expense of thousands of dollars. That's what prompted a pair of Texas inventors to come up with a new do-it-yourself method.

"When our local water company wanted \$1,500 to hook up a water meter and that didn't include the cost of laying pipe, my dad decided to drill his own well," explains Nathaniel Burson, Well-Tek. "He and I worked on it for most of two years. We tried lots of different ideas before we came up with this system."

The heart of the system is an air-powered sander/polisher that can be picked up for about \$35. The Bursons removed the handle to fit the power tool inside a piece of pvc pipe. Then they drilled a hole in the back of the sander's housing so air could exit.

With the right selection of "bits" and a compressor that'll put out 16 cfm at 90 psi, they soon had a well drilling rig. Best of all, Burson says, it practically digs the well by itself. Here's how it works:

A small hole is dug and water is added. Then the pipe with the sander and bit inside is inserted into the hole. As air passes up the pipe, it creates a vacuum that pulls in the water and soil to the surface through a hose. After filtering out the solids, the water is returned to the hole.

"The most revolutionary idea in the system was using the exhaust air coming out the hole in the sander's housing to remove water and dirt from the hole," says Burson. "Basically we're using air power to dig the hole. We knew others were interested in drilling their own wells, so we started selling do-it-yourself kits. Burson reports using the system to dig wells as deep as 210 feet. He's confident it could go even deeper.

Kits ship with bits to drill a hole large enough for a 4-in. thin wall, pvc casing. Burson reports that due to requests for a 6-in. bore, they have been testing larger bits.

In addition to North American sales, the Bursons have shipped kits to customers in India, Tasmania, New Zealand, several African countries and Portugal. Burson says the recent drought in New Zealand has created lots of interest in that country.

The time needed to drill a well depends on the type of soil and the depth needed to find water. In sandy areas of Florida, drilling a well can take as little as a day, while clay and rock can stretch drilling out to a week or more.

"I've drilled as fast as 20 ft. in an hour and, on a good day on easy soil, I've drilled 90 ft. in a day," says Burson. "Most people should expect to spend a week drilling a 100-ft. well."

Well-Tek sells kits for \$399.95, and individual parts are also available. Plans and an instructional DVD are available on the company website, which features video of the system at work.

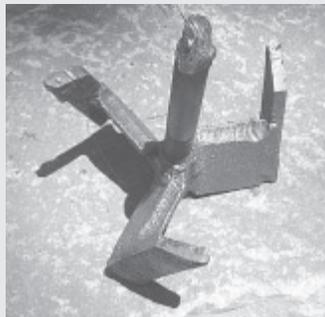
Burson does advise checking with local authorities first regarding any permits or local regulations related to well drilling.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Well-Tek, 10758 Highway 155 S., Big Sandy, Texas 75755 (ph 903 576-6800; orders@howtodrillawell.com; www.howtodrillawell.com).

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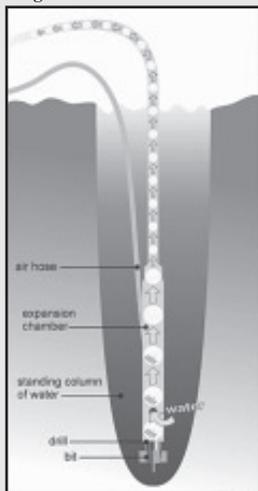
Air-powered sander/polisher fits inside a piece of pvc pipe.



Kits ship with bits to drill a hole large enough for a 4-in. thin wall, pvc casing.



As hole is dug, water and dirt shoot out, carried by air exiting tool.



"Best Buy" Sprinkler Repellent

Alfred Geiger had trouble keeping deer away from his vegetable garden until he started using a Havahart motion-activated water repeller (Woodstream Corp., Lititz, Penn. ph 800 800-1819; www.havahart.com). The unit is said to be ideal for stray dogs, squirrels, raccoons, rabbits, deer, and other animals.

"I started using it in my vegetable garden last April. Deer were eating okra stalks right down to the roots, and also my carrots - I couldn't see any green tops on them at all," says Geiger, of Jacksonville, Fla.

The 18-in. tall, battery-operated unit hooks up to a garden hose and works by detecting an animal or bird with infrared sensors. You just stick it in the ground near the area you want to protect. Once a pest is detected, an electronic valve releases a 3-second burst of water from a 1/8-in. dia. nozzle. The jet of water goes out up to 35 ft. and can protect a 1,000 sq. ft. area. An adjustable sensitivity detector and random spray pattern prevents animals from growing accustomed to the sprayer.

"It's supposed to scare deer away, and so far it has done that for me," says Geiger. "The sudden noise and motion of the water is what scares animals away. The motion sensor turns the sprinkler on for about three seconds, and then it shuts off for eight seconds. If motion is detected again after eight seconds it'll turn the water on again for three seconds. The water drains out of the sprinkler nozzle when it shuts off, so when the water turns back on again it makes a hissing noise like a rattlesnake before the water stream starts.



Battery-operated Havahart motion-activated water repeller hooks up to a garden hose and works by detecting an animal or bird with infrared sensors.

"The adjustable knob that controls the sensitivity of the sensor is located on back of the unit. If you turn the sensitivity up all the way and if it's a windy day, just the weeds swaying in the breeze will set it off. I learned to turn the sensor down to compensate for that."

Sells for \$62.99 plus S&H.

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Easy Lift For Roofing Jobs

Faced with roofing his house, Lee Dietsch came up with an easy way to get bundles of shingles and tools onto the roof. He built a lightweight elevator that he could carry from area to area as he worked.

"When you're reroofing a house by yourself, it's not like working with a crew where you strip the whole thing at one time and reshingle quickly," he notes. "You put in a section at a time, and that means moving only what you need into place."

Dietsch used 2 by 4's for the sides with scrap lumber for spreaders. He mounted tracks for a garage door opener to the inside of the 2 by 4's and used chain from two used openers he bought for \$35. He needed enough length to extend from the base to the upper end and back to the garage door opener motor that he mounted at the base.

Dietsch used rollers usually attached to a garage door to mount a small wooden platform on the tracks and attached the elevator chain to it as well. He also mounted an axle with lawn mower wheels to the base for easier moving. At the roof end, he attached a pair of metal feet to lift the elevator above the roof edge and rain gutters.

"I put limit switches on the top and bottom so the power would shut off automatically and the platform wouldn't over run," says Dietsch. "I can put a bundle and half of



Lee Dietsch built this lightweight elevator, attaching a pair of metal feet to lift elevator above roof edge and rain gutters.



He mounted an axle with lawn mower wheels to base for easy moving.

shingles on it at a time. It can probably lift 75 to 100 lbs. of materials at a time. I used it for tarpaper, nail guns and other stuff. It saved me a lot of time."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lee Dietsch, 514 Twp Rd 8 B E, Hamler, Ohio 43524 (ph 419 233-7708).

How To Chase Gophers Away

Those who've tried it say that the perfect mouse and gopher repellent is stinky, used cat litter.

According to an article on the website, www.petcaretips.net, used cat litter puts out a loud and clear warning to rodents that there's a predator living nearby - thanks to the odor of the cat feces and urine within the litter.

Just keep pouring the litter down those holes and the unwelcome rodents will get the point and leave for safer pastures. It's a sim-

pler control method than using poisons, explosives, or guns.

A contributor to the online newsletter, The Dollar Stretcher, recently attested to the effectiveness of cat litter as rodent repellent.

"I carefully dig down through a gopher mound to find the run. Then I pour in cat litter," he says. "The odor will go throughout the run, and in most cases the gophers or moles will leave the area. You might have to do it in more than one area a couple of times."