

STRATEX®

drilling method



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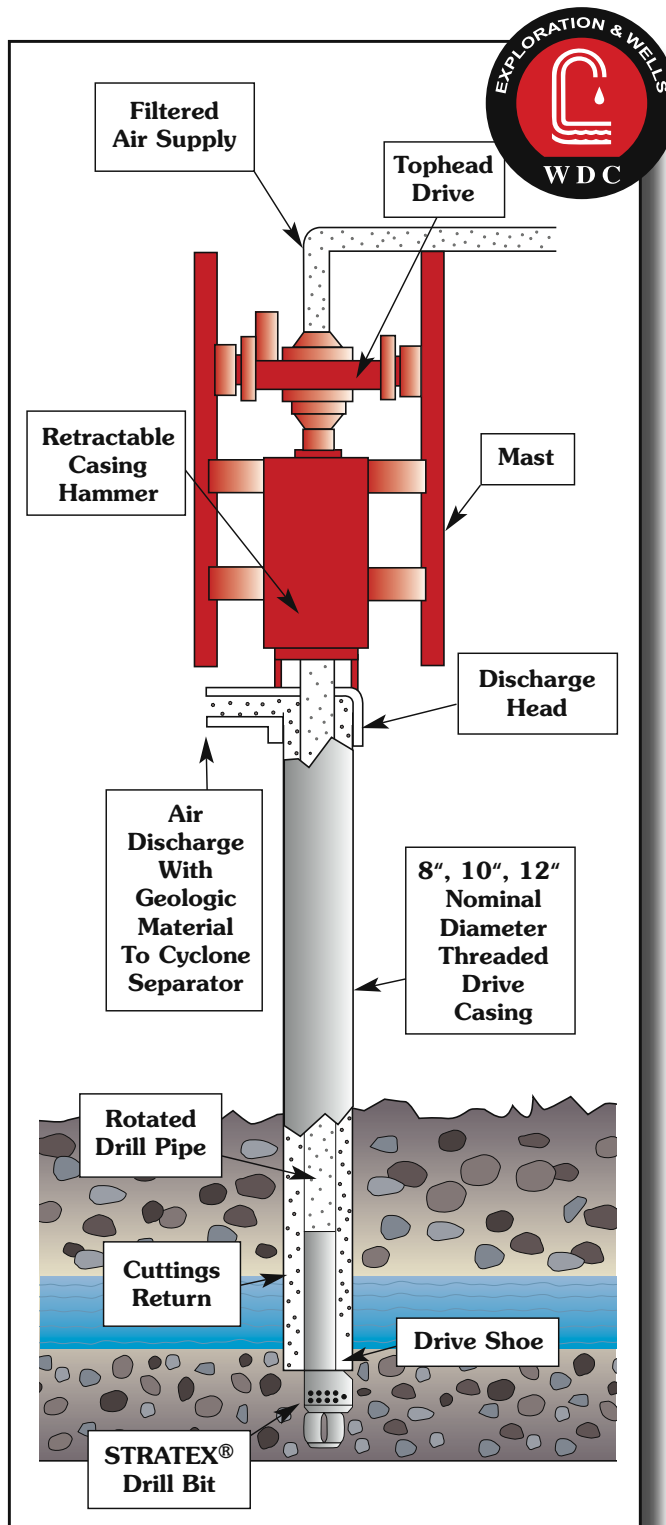
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The STRATEX® drilling system provides efficient and reliable drilling through the most difficult and challenging environments. Formations previously thought impractical or impossible can be drilled to greater depths and larger diameters than with conventional drilling methods. Borings and well installations in areas with boulders, cobbles, fractured volcanic, gravels or alternating formations are installed in an efficient and cost effective manner.

The STRATEX® system consists of a non-rotating flush-threaded casing driven by a pneumatic down-hole hammer in conjunction with a retractable, under-reaming carbide drill bit. Drill cuttings are removed from the hole by the bit rotation and air circulation. The material is discharged through a hose to a cyclone, which separates the air from the formation cuttings and fluids to facilitate sampling and drill cutting containment.



Upon completion of drilling, the drill rod and under-reamer bit are retracted from the center of the drive casing to allow the installation of permanent well construction materials. The drive casing is extracted using a hydraulic casing puller rated up to 250 tons. After the well casing is placed, the drive casing is pulled as the gravel pack and the seal is installed in the annulus using a tremmie pipe.

PRIMARY BENEFITS

Provides the ability to set up to an 8" well to depths exceeding 750' in any formation.

Provides the ability to install wells in formations that previously could not be drilled using rotary methods due to loss of circulation in caving, fractured or cavernous formations.

Eliminates the need to set cemented-in conductor casings to stabilize caving formations in order to drill into lower formations.

Does not permanently seal off water producing zones.

Drill cuttings and fluids can be discharged directly into a containment vessel.

Provides a clean borehole for well construction. This eliminates problems during well installation.

The completed well does not have drilling mud or loss circulation materials to develop; thus the well develops quicker and is more efficient.

Sample specifications and references are available upon request.