

RECOMMENDED METHOD FOR DISINFECTION OF WELLS

1. Pour the proper amount of chlorine bleach directly into the well. As a general rule, use ½ (half) gallon of bleach for every 50 feet.
2. Connect a garden hose to a nearby faucet and wash down the inside of the well.
3. Starting with the faucet farthest from the holding tank, open each faucet in the house one by one and let the water run until a strong odor of chlorine is detected. If a strong odor is not detected, add more chlorine to the well.
4. Let the chlorine stand in the water system for 24 hours. NOTE: DO NOT DRINK OR USE THE WATER DURING THIS PERIOD.
5. At the end of this time, flush the system of remaining chlorine. Start by turning on the outside faucets and letting them run until the chlorine smell dissipates. Letting the water run on the ground will reduce the load on your septic system. Finally, run the indoor faucets until the system is completely flushed and no chlorine is detected (10 minutes for every 50 feet).
6. Allow the well to stand for 12 – 24 more hours.
7. Again open all faucets in the house and run for 5 – 10 minutes to ensure that there is no more chlorine present.
8. If no chlorine is detected, retest the water if desired and use water as usual. It is advisable to wait one week before re-testing.

At the end of this process the chlorine solution should be out of the water. The pipes should be disinfected and your well should have refilled with new water free of bacterial contamination. If desired, re-testing of the water at this time should confirm that the water is potable. If after re-testing, the water is still not potable, please contact a water system treatment consultant to correct the problem.

****Water softeners, iron filters, and sand filters should also be chlorinated. Do not chlorinate carbon or charcoal filters. Check manufacturers' literature before chlorinating treatment equipment and pressure tanks to prevent damage from strong chlorine solutions.**

For more information concerning health effects, please call your local Health Department.