

## HOW TO DISINFECT A WATER WELL

1. Remove the well cap or the vent pipe or plug, if the well is equipped with a sanitary well seal.
2. Mix household chlorine bleach with water at a dilution rate of 1:100, (one gallon of bleach to 100 gallons of water; half a gallon of bleach to 50 gallons of water; a quart of bleach to 25 gallons of water.)
3. Pour the chlorine and water solution into well.
4. Connect a hose to a house spigot and run water directly into well until you smell chlorine. Run the water this way for 15 - 20 minutes. Also utilize the hose to thoroughly rinse down the sides of the well casing walls.
5. Shut off water supply to hose and proceed to systematically open every water fixture. Include hot water and cold water taps, outside taps, and any other taps. Let water run through each faucet until you smell chlorine.
6. Leave the chlorine in the water system and all plumbing for 8-12 hours. Recap the well or replace the vent pipe or plug. It is advised that you turn off the water heater during this time. All softeners and other treatment systems need to be cleaned and sanitized per manufacturers directions.
7. To remove chlorinated water from the system run water to a hose outside and have the water drain away to a safe area, avoid the septic system area. Run the water until the chlorine smell is gone. If you can not smell very well get a pool chlorine test kit to test if the chlorine is out of the system.
8. Run inside spigots until the smell of chlorine is gone. Your system will be ready to be sampled forty-eight (48) hours after the smell of chlorine is gone. Contact the health department at 562-5871. Water samples are only taken on Tuesday afternoons between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m..
9. If possible, have the water running for at least 10 minutes prior to the health department arriving there to test the water.

Tables to identify how much chlorine solution is to be added to your well for proper chlorination:

Diameter of well (inches)	Gallons per foot of water
3	0.37
4	0.65
5	1.0
6	1.5
8	2.6

**Example:** For a new well: 6" diameter well that is 30 ft. deep consists of 45 gallons of water and bleach solution necessary to chlorinated the well. So approximately a ½ gallon of 5.25% solution of sodium hypochlorite - liquid bleach - is necessary.  
**For an alteration:** Double the amount of bleach used for a new well, approximately 1 gallon.  
**For superchlorination:** To be used after two positive samples use four times the amount used for a new well, approximately 2 gallons.

Chlorine concentration (parts per million)	Gallons of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite - liquid bleach	Pounds of dry calcium hypochlorite	Minimum contact time
250	0.5 gallons	0.38	8 hours
500 ppm	1 gallons	0.75 pounds	8 hours

# Well Disinfection

