



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

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Instructions for chlorination of water wells

Why chlorinate the well? The most common reason for disinfection of a well is to “clear up” the water system following a “positive” test for coliform. The coliform group of bacteria, are found in the environment and in the intestine of man or other animals. Further differentiation within the coliform group may yield fecal coliform bacteria, from which a determination may be made as to the possible source of contamination (such as a septic system or fecal source). Wells should be chlorinated following periods of flooding, construction or reconstruction, sudden change in water color, turbidity, or taste.

What should I do before chlorinating the well? Physical defects in the well, storage or water distribution facilities should be corrected *before* chlorination and re-sampling.

Materials: Chlorine, Preferably in the form of household bleach (5.25% Sodium Hypochlorite) is recommended. Using bleach eliminates the need for mixing and unnecessary handling of hazardous chemicals. *(Liquid pool chlorine is ~twice as strong, so reduce the recommended amount by 50%)

Quantity:

DISINFECTION OF WELLS		DISINFECTION OF STORAGE TANKS	
Diameter of pipe or casing (inches)	Quantity of household bleach to dose 100ft of pipe at 50ppm	Amount of water to be treated (gallons)	Quantity of household bleach to yield 50ppm residual
2	2 ounces	50	6.5 ounces
4	8 ounces	100	13 ounces
6	2.5 cups	500	2 quarts
8	4 cups	1,000	1 gallon
10	6.5 cups	5,000	5 gallons
24	2.33 gallons	10,000	10 gallons

Method:

- 1) Pump well to waste until water is relatively clear
- 2) Stop pump and drain pressure tank
- 3) Add chlorine solution and lift pump if needed
- 4) After 30 minutes start and stop pump repeatedly to mix water and chlorine
- 5) Individually, open each tap throughout distribution until chlorine smell is pungent, then close
- 6) Allow pressure tank to fill completely
- 7) Let system stand without pumping for at least 4 hours (preferably over night)
- 8) Pump well to waste until desired smell is produced, re-establish air cushion in pressure tank

Re-sample water after ~ two weeks once all trace of chlorine is out of the water per lab instructions.