

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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Environmental Health Division

WATER WELL DISINFECTION PROCEDURES

The bacteriological quality of domestic water is determined by testing for coliform bacteria. Coliform organisms are indicators of surface contamination which may originate from human, animal, or other sources. Drinking water which does not meet bacteriological standards may not necessarily result in illness but that possibility exists. The finding of coliform bacteria cannot be ignored and it is recommended that you follow the Water Well Disinfection Procedures below.

1. Pump the well until the water is clear, being sure to flush out all distribution piping.
2. After the water flowing from the well looks clear, stop the pump.
3. Introduce household bleach (Clorox, Purex, White Magic, Sani-Chlor, Vano, etc.) into the well casing through the inspection port. (See the table below for the amount of bleach required.)
4. Do not run the pump for the next thirty (30) minutes.
5. Pump well again until you can smell the bleaching agent at the end of all distribution lines (taps, faucets and hydrants).
6. Shut off all distribution lines. Do not operate the pump for twenty-four (24) hours.
7. After the 24-hour period, open all outside distribution lines, start the pump and pump water until all the chlorine odor is gone. Close all distribution lines. Test the free chlorine residual. It should be 0 ppm. Collect a water sample and submit to state certified lab for analysis.

If your well is 100 feet deep or less, you can use the following table to find the amount of bleach needed.

DIAMETER OF WELL CASING	AMOUNT OF BLEACH NEEDED
4 inches	1 pint
6 inches	1 quart
12 inches	½ gallon
16 inches	1 gallon

If your well is 100 to 200 feet deep, you will need twice as much as for a well 100 feet or less. It won't matter if you use more than the amounts shown above, but be sure you use enough.

Periodic contamination of the well may occur if the well lacks the proper seals, becomes flooded or the casing becomes deteriorated allowing the entry of polluted surface water. In these

circumstances, repair is required. Contact Environmental Health staff for information on requirements of the County Well Ordinance.

* Do not allow excessive amounts of chlorinated water to drain into the septic tank since this will kill the bacteria which attack and digest the organic solid waste.