

Disinfecting Your Well Water (Summarized Instructions)

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When Should I Disinfect My Well Water?

After your well has been drilled state law requires that the driller disinfect it. After that it is your responsibility. All wells should be disinfected *at least once a year and anytime* that you have work done on the well or plumbing system.

Benefits of Disinfecting My Well Water

- ◆ Kills harmful bacteria and viruses that may cause disease
- ◆ Reduces iron bacteria that forms a reddish brown slime. This coats pipes and plumbing fixtures and may clog watering devices with small openings. Iron in the water may discolor clothes when washed.

How Do I Disinfect My Well Water?

- ◆ Disinfecting your well is not difficult. It can be done using regular household bleach (unscented). The procedure is called "shock chlorination".
- ◆ Store enough clean drinking and cooking water for at least 24 hours.
- ◆ Using Table 1 decide the right amount of bleach needed to disinfect your well. It is better to use too much bleach instead of not enough.

Table 1: Amount of bleach needed for shock chlorination:

		Casing Diameter				
		4-inch	6 inch	8 inch	12 inch	24 inch
Height of	10 ft.	3 Pints	2 Quarts	2 Quarts	5 Pints	5 Quarts
Water	25 ft.	2 Quarts	2 Quarts	5 Pints	7 Pints	3 Gallons
Standing	50 ft.	2 Quarts	5 Pints	7 Pints	6 Quarts	6 Gallons
In Well	100 ft.	5 Pints	7 Pints	5 Quarts	3 Gallons	11 Gallons
(feet)	150 ft.	3 Quarts	5 Quarts	6 Quarts	5 Gallons	16 Gallons

- ◆ Mix the right amount of bleach with 5 gallons of water in a clean glass, crockery, or plastic container. Depending on the amount of bleach needed this may require several mixes. Do not use metal containers.
- ◆ Remove the well cap or seal. Pour the mixture into the well.
- ◆ Connect a hose from a faucet on the discharge side of the pressure tank. Run the hose to the well casing and run the water back into the well for at least 15 minutes. Make sure to splash water on the sides of the well casing to insure the casing is properly disinfected.
- ◆ To protect your septic tank, turn on one outside faucet until you smell bleach. Then turn on one faucet at a time inside until you smell bleach. Do this for all inside and outside faucets (hot and cold water). Also flush toilets and run clothes washers and dishwashers until you smell bleach.
- ◆ Make sure all faucets are turned off and recap the well.
- ◆ Leave the treated water in the well and pipes for 12-24 hours. Don't drink the water during this time and use as little water as possible for flushing toilets, washing dishes, etc...
- ◆ After 12-24 hours open one outside faucet and let water run until the chlorine smell disappears. Then open the inside faucets long enough for the chlorine smell to disappear. Repeat for all faucets (hot and cold water). Flush all toilets and washers until bleach smell disappears.
- ◆ Repeat this process at least once a year

For more detailed information read ENRI-222 Disinfecting Your Well Water.

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