



Northeast Tri County Health District Environmental Health Division

Well Disinfection

DISINFECTION OF A WELL:

- Remove any debris that may have entered the well. Run the water until it becomes clear.
- Estimate the number of gallons in the well (a 6-inch diameter well casing has 1.5 gallons per foot of water, a 36-inch diameter dug well casing has 50 gallons per foot of water) and use one half-cup bleach for every 30 gallons of water. To help in determining how much water is in the well casing, the “Water Well Report” may be helpful. If you don’t have a report for your well, contact Northeast Tri County Health District for assistance.
 - **Example:** If you have a well with a 6-inch casing that is 150 feet deep, with a water static level of 90 feet (water level is 90 feet below the surface) you will have 60 feet of water. $60 \text{ (feet of water)} \times 1.5 \text{ (gallons per foot of casing)} = 90 \text{ gallons}$. Pour $1 \frac{1}{2}$ cups of liquid household bleach (5.25% chlorine) into the well. This will produce 50 ppm of chlorine to treat your well.
- Do not over-chlorinate and do not use bleach with additives such as “fresh scent.”
- Pour the required quantity of bleach into the well. Connect a garden hose to the nearest outside faucet and circulate the water through the hose and back into the well. This will mix the chlorine with the water and the pump will draw the chlorine to the bottom of the well. After you start smelling the chlorine in the water coming out of the hose, work the hose around to rinse the upper portion of the well with the disinfectant. (NOTE: If you cannot reach the well with a hose, you can rinse the upper portion of the casing by pouring chlorinated water down the inside of the case using a bucket. Mix 1 cup chlorine bleach per bucket of water).
- Draw water at every water outlet connected to the system until a strong chlorine odor is perceptible, this includes showers, tubs, toilet tanks, and outside fixtures.
- Allow the disinfectant to remain in the system overnight (24 hours are preferable). Do not use the water during this time.
- Use one or more outside faucets to draw water out of the well to remove the chlorine. The well should be thoroughly and repeatedly flushed to remove the chlorine. All water lines should also be flushed.
- After you have thoroughly pumped the well to remove the chlorine, use the water for 3-4 days and then have a water sample tested for safety. During this time, the water can be used for laundry and bathing, but it should not be used until a water sample shows it is safe from contamination.
- A list of certified water testing laboratories can be obtained from Northeast Tri County Health District.

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