



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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PROCEDURE FOR DISINFECTING WELLS

All new wells must be disinfected before being used for domestic purposes. In addition, whenever any work is done on a well (new pump, deepening, etc.) the well should be disinfected in the same manner. The following procedure for chlorinating is usually satisfactory for disinfecting a well; however, other methods may be used provided they yield comparable results.

1. Take all necessary measures to completely seal the well from any contamination by flood, rainwater, dust, insects, and any small animals.
2. The water from the system to be chlorinated should be clear. If not, pump or test pump until water clears.
3. Add the proper amount of chlorine solution to the well (usually a gallon of chlorine bleach is sufficient) so that concentration of chlorine in the well water is at least 50 parts per million (ppm) available chlorine.
4. The pump column or drop pipe must be washed with the chlorine solution as it is lowered into the well.
5. Allow the chlorine to disperse in the water strata for one hour.
6. Mix and re-circulate the water and chlorine in the well by starting and stopping the pump.
7. Open all outside water taps until the smell of chlorine is present at each one. If possible, hose down the portion of the well casing above the water level with the chlorinated water in your lines. Close the taps and allow the chlorinated water to remain in the well lines for 24 hours.
8. Pump the well to waste until the smell and taste of chlorine is gone.

If a laboratory analysis shows the water is not safe to use, the disinfection procedure may be repeated until the test shows the water is safe to use. If repeated disinfection is necessary to obtain satisfactory results, the bacteriological quality of the well should be closely monitored during the first month of operation.

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