

HOW TO DISINFECT A WATER WELL

1. Remove the well cap or the vent pipe or plug if the well is equipped with a sanitary well seal. Remove concrete top if chlorinating a dug well.
2. Pour 1 gallon of household bleach (5.25% chlorine) into 4 gallons of water. Mix this solution in a 5-gallon bucket.
3. Pour the 5-gallon mixture down the sides of the well. Make sure to cover all inside casing areas of the well.
4. Systematically open each water fixture in the house. Let water run through each fixture until chlorine odor is present. Include both cold and hot water valves.
5. Leave all valves closed for a period of 24 hours or longer (toilets may be flushed if needed).
6. Open the hose spigot and discharge water to ground surface or drainage ditch until chlorine odor disappears. Open every household fixture and let water run until the chlorine odor is gone. Be careful not to run the well dry or overheat the pump.
7. The well should now be properly disinfected. Once chlorine residual (odor) is no longer detectable, contact the Health Department to schedule a water sample collection.

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