

SUGGESTED WELL SANITIZING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Locate the well casing. (Typically a 4 inch steel pipe near the well tank)
2. Remove square headed, threaded plug on top of casing cover. (May be plastic or galvanized metal)
3. Pour approximately 1-gallon (+/- ½ gal. see first note below) regular unscented household bleach down the opening. More bleach is not necessarily more effective, but will take much longer to flush out.
4. Use a garden hose connected to well tank/house spigot and rinse bleach (*chlorine*) down casing holding garden hose over hole for approximately 2 minutes.
5. Then replace square headed plug and let water continue to run on ground for approximately 10 minutes or until a noticeable chlorine odor is detected.
6. Now turn the hose off, as chlorinated water has been drawn into the storage tank.
7. Go to house and run the faucets until a noticeable chlorine odor is detected. (Approx. 1 minute per faucet)
8. Now let the chlorinated water sit in the system for a minimum of 6 hours. Do not run the water at all during this time.
9. After at least a 6-hour sanitizing period, go to an outside spigot and turn the water on and let run for at least 1 hour or until the chlorine odor is not detected (which may take longer).
10. Go into the house and run the faucets until the chlorine odor is gone. (Approx. 5-10 minutes per faucet)

SOME IMPORTANT NOTES:

The amount of chlorine added and the flush times may vary according to well depth, storage tank volume and pumping rate.

This procedure can oxidize and break loose deposits within your plumbing system. While many consider this a benefit, it is very important to flush outside before turning on the faucets inside. If you notice a reduction in water pressure inside the residence, remove and clean the aerator on each affected faucet.

It is important to flush all traces of chlorine from the system prior to a re-sample and re-test. The water is only safe for consumption after a re-test is completed showing that Total Coliform is absent.

If a water softener is present, it should be put in bypass before sanitizing the well. The concentration of chlorine that results from this well sanitation procedure can damage the media inside of the softener.

As a part of this procedure, it is recommended to check the casing for any openings large enough for either rain water or insects to enter. Use silicone caulk to seal any openings that are found before flushing the chlorine out of the system. These openings are the most common cause of bacterial contamination in residential wells.

This procedure has been adapted from EPA and FDOH well sanitizing/disinfection protocol for wells in flooded areas or that have tested positive for Total Coliform bacteria and is provided by Ackuritlabs, Inc. for informational purposes only.