

## Well Sanitizing Instructions

**Step 1:** Wait until any flood waters recede (if applicable) and there is no standing water directly around the well. It is also necessary for the well to have power to complete this process.

**Step 2:** Locate the well casing, a 4 inch diameter PVC or galvanized metal pipe usually located near the well tank. *If there is a water softener, put it in bypass before proceeding (typically done by turning a lever behind the valve). The concentration of chlorine that results from this procedure can damage the media inside of the softener.*

**Step 3:** Remove square-headed, threaded plug on top of casing cover. It may be plastic or galvanized metal. *Plastic plugs sometimes break during removal, but it won't hurt anything even if pieces of plastic fall inside the casing. If this happens, make sure to replace the plug or seal it in another way (threaded bolt, tapered rubber stopper, silicone caulk, or anything else that forms a removable watertight seal) before flushing out the chlorine.*

**Step 4:** Pour approximately 1 gallon regular unscented liquid household bleach down the opening. Pool chlorine may be used, but cut the amount in half. More bleach is not necessarily more effective, but will take much longer to flush out.

**Step 5:** Use a garden hose to rinse chlorine down casing by holding hose over hole for approximately 2 minutes.

**Step 6:** Replace the square-headed plug (or alternative seal) and let water continue to run on ground until a noticeable chlorine odor is detected, usually about 10 minutes. Then turn off the hose.

**Step 7:** Go to residence and run the faucets until a noticeable chlorine odor is detected, approximately 1 minute per faucet. Turn each faucet off once you smell chlorine.

**Step 8:** All water taps/spigots must remain off for at least 6 hours. **Do not run the water at all during this time.**

**Step 9:** After at least 6 hours, turn on one or more outside spigots and let the water run until the chlorine odor is gone, typically between 1 and 4 hours. The amount of time this takes depends on well depth, storage tank volume, and pumping rate. *This procedure can 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, remove and clean the aerator on each affected faucet.*

**Step 10:** Once the chlorine odor is gone at the outside spigots, go inside and run each faucet until the chlorine odor is gone. This part should only take about 5-10 minutes per faucet. It is important to flush all traces of chlorine from the system prior to collecting a sample for testing. **The water is only safe for consumption after analysis shows Total Coliform bacteria are absent.** Contact your local health department or certified laboratory for testing procedures.

