

WELL DISINFECTION

The amount of bleach required for disinfection may vary and depends on the number of units or connections to the well. The following procedure is based on a single residence or unit. More bleach will be required for larger systems. Contact Water Management (368-5044 / 1-866-368-5044) or the Tourism Water Standards Advisor (368-9395) if you require assistance.



STEP 1: Collect materials that will be needed. Chlorine (common household bleach that does not contain detergent or other additives such as fabric guard), screwdriver, drill or ratchet (depending on type of well cap), bucket and garden hose.



STEP 2: Remove well cap.



STEP 3: Inspect inside of well casing and cap for any signs of insect nests (earwigs, etc.) as they are a common source of coliform bacteria. If well is not sealed with a vermin proof cap, one should be installed.



STEP 4: Mix 1 litre of Chlorine (bleach) in approximately 45 litres of water. Chlorine can be dangerous if not used and stored properly. Chlorine should always be used in well ventilated areas.



STEP 5: Pour the mixed chlorine solution into the well. If the well is buried with the old type of well seal cap, either expose the top of the well and remove the well cap pouring the solution directly into the well, or pour the solution through a clean funnel into the air vent or siphon through the vent (flush the air line with clean water after chlorination).

WELL DISINFECTION (CONT'D.)



Note:

To provide greater circulation of the disinfectant, a garden hose connected to a tap supplied by the well, may be placed in the top of the well casing. Allow water to circulate for 30 min. to ensure the chlorine is thoroughly mixed in the well.



STEP 6:

Proceed to systematically open each water fixture in the house. Let water run through each fixture individually, shutting them off once a chlorine odor is present. Include both hot and cold water valves.



STEP 7:

Repeat step 4.



STEP 8:

Repeat step 5.



STEP 9:

Tightly secure the well cap.

WELL DISINFECTION (CONT'D.)



STEP 10: Let the system sit idle for 8-12 hours, preferably overnight (small amounts of water may be used such as periodically flushing a toilet). Do not leave chlorine for more than 24 hours as it may affect some pump parts.

DO NOT drink the water until the disinfection procedure is complete.



STEP 11: After time has passed, flush the system through an outside tap/hose until the chlorine odour has completely disappeared. Be careful not to discharge the chlorinated water in areas where it can harm vegetation (e.g. vegetable gardens). **DO NOT** discharge chlorinated water into the septic system.



STEP 12: Allow the water to run through each household fixture individually until the chlorine odour is gone.

- ⇒ You may submit a sample for analysis 48 hours after purging the system of chlorine. The laboratory will reject any sample that contains chlorine residual.
- ⇒ Remember, disinfection of an improperly located or constructed well and/or water supply will not ensure good quality drinking water. Disinfection of the well and water system is considered to be only a temporary solution. If problems persist, permanent corrective measures should be considered such as well reconstruction or ultraviolet light treatment.

For more information please contact the Department of Environment, Labour and Justice at 368-5044 (toll free 1-866-368-5044)

or

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