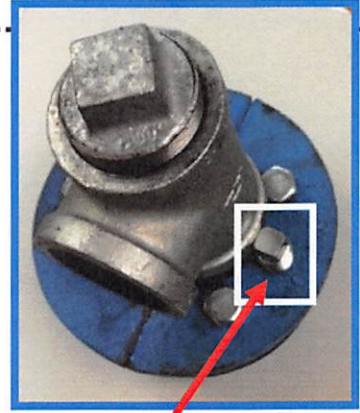


SOUTH CENTRAL HEALTH DISTRICT PROCEDURES FOR DISINFECTING WELLS

Well disinfection is necessary following a positive bacteria test (coliform), new well construction, any repairs, or after flooding. Before chlorinating, it is important to check the integrity of the water source to prevent future contamination. Well construction must prevent entry of surface water, debris, insects, and animals. The well casing and concrete slab should be sealed and the well cap or sanitary seal must be secure.

Chlorinate Well

- A. Thoroughly clean all accessible surfaces removing any loose debris. Then wash the area with a strong chlorine solution (1 quart household bleach per 5 gallon of water).
- B. Remove plug from top of well casing. The plug is about one half inch square. It is usually stainless steel or plastic.
- C. Pour three (3) gallons of Clorox, or other household bleach, into the opening in the well casing. *We recommend using a funnel that will fit into the 1/2" plug opening.*
- D. Run water from outside faucet through a hose until a strong chlorine smell can be detected. Place the end of the hose in the well allowing the water to run down the sides of the casing and circulate for at least 15 minutes and turn off the hose. Replace the well plug.
- E. Turn on all other outside faucets and allow them to run until chlorine smell is detected. Turn faucets off.
- F. Turn on all inside faucets and allow them to run until chlorine smell is detected. Turn faucets off.
- G. Allow chlorinated water to remain in pipes for 6 to 8 hours. *Preferably overnight. Refrain from any water use during this time.*
- H. It is very important that the chlorinated water is introduced to all water lines. Don't forget lines going to washing machines, ice makers, dishwashers, shower heads, toilets, water treatment systems, swimming pools, dog pens, etc.



Remove the square plug to pour the bleach

Flush Well

- A. Connect a garden hose to an outside faucet. *Preferably the faucet closest to well.* Run hose away from house. Flush the system of chlorine by turning on outside faucet and allowing it to run for a **minimum of 6 to 8 hours** (usually takes longer) until chlorine smell is no longer detectable.
- B. **Flush** all remaining water lines both inside and outside the home. Do not run any unnecessary water into the septic system or allow the chlorinated water to drain into a stream or pond. *The well cannot be flushed too much!*



Water Testing After Chlorination

The well water should be retested to determine if it's safe to drink. It is recommended that over the next several weeks two additional samples are taken and the results are satisfactory.

Repeated chlorination and /or a well professional should be called if problems remain.

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