



Clark County Public Health Department

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BORED & DUG WELL DISINFECTION

A new well, or one which has been cleaned or repaired, normally will contain contamination, which may remain for weeks unless the well is thoroughly disinfected.

Well Diameter (feet)	Amount of 5.25% Liquid Laundry Bleach (in cups) Per Foot of Water in the Well
3	1 ½
4	3
5	4 ½
6	6
7	9
8	12
10	18

1. Determine the well diameter and the number of feet of water in your well.
2. From the diameter listed in the table above, use the number in the adjacent column to determine the cups of liquid laundry bleach to use per foot of water. Multiply the cups of liquid laundry bleach times the number of feet of water. For example, to disinfect a well that is 3 feet in diameter with 10 feet of water requires 15 cups (10 ft. x 1.5 cups/ft.) or about 1 gallon of liquid laundry bleach.
3. Add the required amount of liquid laundry bleach to 10 gallons of water and stir thoroughly.
4. Pour the entire amount of this solution into the top of the well. While pouring, splash the solution around the casing or inside of the well, being certain that the solution has contacted all parts of the well.
5. Connect one or more hoses from faucets on the discharge side of the pressure tank to the top of the well casing and start the pump, recirculating the water back into the well until a strong chlorine odor is detected. Then open each faucet in the system until a chlorine smell is noticeable. Close all faucets. Seal the top of the well.
6. Let stand for several hours, preferably overnight.
7. After you have let the water stand, operate the pump, discharging water from all outlets until all chlorine odor disappears. Adjust the flow of water from the faucets or fixtures that discharge into septic tank systems to a low flow to avoid overloading the disposal system.
8. After the chlorine odor has disappeared, let the water run a few more minutes, then collect a sample of the water and submit it to a laboratory for analysis.

CHLORINE HAZARDS TO AVOID

When working with chlorine, you should always be in an open or well-ventilated place. Do not allow the strong liquid to remain in contact with the skin or clothing. Solutions are best handled in plastic containers since strong chlorine solutions corrode metal containers.