



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Henry & Stark County Health Department Environmental Health

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PROCEDURE FOR DISINFECTING A WATER WELL

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. To disinfect a well, an ordinary laundry bleach solution (5.25% chlorine) may be used. The amount of disinfectant required is determined primarily by the amount of water in the well.

Before Beginning

-Be sure to prepare the bleach solution outside in a well-ventilated area and wear applicable protective clothing to protect skin and eyes from spills.

-Notify all users of the well disinfection process and to not drink or bathe in the water while the strong disinfectant is present in the system. Be sure to store an adequate supply of water for use during a 12-24 hour period.



-Check the condition of the well and plumbing and finish any repairs before the disinfection process.

- Disconnect or bypass any carbon filters or water treatment devices. The devices will remove chlorine from the water and pipes located past these areas will not be disinfected.

- Consider shutting off electrical power to the well pump when removing the well cap, as exposed wires pose an electrical hazard.

Chlorination Procedure

1. Remove well cap.
2. Referring to the table on the following page, determine the amount of bleach to mix.
3. Mix determined bleach solution with 5 to 10 gallons of water in a nonmetallic container.
4. Pour mixture slowly into the well. Turn power back on.
5. Attach a clean garden hose to an outside faucet and run it into the well casing to circulate water into the well, washing down the sides of the casing until a strong odor of chlorine occurs.
6. Starting with the faucet **closest** to the well, turn on all inside faucets individually until a strong odor of chlorine occurs on both hot and cold taps. *(Note: This may take quite some time.)*
If no chlorine odor is detected after several minutes, add more disinfectant to the well. Turn off once odor is detected. Flush toilets and fill washing machines and dishwashers.
7. Replace carbon filters and water treatment devices.
8. Replace the well cap and allow the bleach solution to sit in the plumbing for 12-24 hours. Longer times are more effective.
9. Flush the high-chlorine water from the well by running an outside spigot to a culvert or drainage ditch until the chlorine odor is no longer detected. Starting with the faucet **furthest** from the well, discharge the water from each faucet individually until all chlorine odor disappears. Water may be discolored due to loosened hard water deposits. The flushing process typically takes 4 to 8 hours after a standard chlorination. *(Note :Do not run the well excessively to avoid damaging the pump. Do not run high-chlorinated water into the septic system or onto grass you do not wish to harm.)*
10. Retest your well water 10 to 14 days after disinfection. If no bacteria are detected, wait two to three months to have the water tested again.





Determining Amount of Disinfectant

Cross-reference the well's diameter in inches with the depth of the water in the well. Where the two lines meet is the amount of bleach to be added to the well.

Note: The water depth shown on this table refers to the actual depth of the water in the well, not the depth of the total well.

		WELL DIAMETER (inches)											
		2	4	6	8	10	12	16	20	24	28	36	48
DEPTH OF WATER IN WELL (feet)	5	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	1c	2c	1q	1q	2q	3q	5q
	10	1c	1c	1c	1c	2c	2c	1q	2q	3q	4q	6q	2.5g
	15	1c	1c	1c	1c	3c	1q	2q	2.5q	1g	5q	2g	4g
	20	1c	1c	1c	2c	1q	1q	2.5q	3.5q	c=Cups p=Pints q=Quarts g=Gallons			
	30	1c	1c	2c	2c	1.5q	2q	4q	5q				
	40	1c	1c	2c	1q	2q	2.5q	4.5q	7q				
	60	1c	2c	1q	1q	3q	4q						
	80	1c	2c	1q	2q	3.5q	5q						
	100	1c	3c	1.5q	2.5q	4q	6q						
150	2c	1q	2.5q	1g	6q	2.5g							

All measurements are based on a standard 8 oz. measuring cup.

Note: 1 Pint= 2 Cups

1 Quart= 2 Pints or 4 Cups

1 Gallon= 4 Quarts or 8 Pints, or 16 Cups

Please contact us with any questions.

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