

Well Chlorination Instructions

There are certain circumstances where chlorinating your well is necessary. You should consider chlorinating your well if bacteria is present in your annual water test; you notice changes in color, smell, or taste of your water; the well is new or has recently been repaired. This process can take anywhere from a day up to 2 weeks, so plan on alternative sources of water. You'll be unable to use the water for a minimum of 24 hours.

Please read through entire instructions before beginning. Do not use ammonia cleaning products in household fixtures before flushing chlorine – a poisonous gas will form. See additional warnings below.

MATERIALS:

- Unscented chlorine bleach
- Hose to reach from well to closest outside faucet
- Wrench to remove well cap
- Pool test kit (to detect chlorine)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. If you have any water treatment equipment, be sure to bypass the system.
2. Determine the depth of water in the well and use the chart below to determine the volume of bleach to use in the well.

Well Diameter	Multiplier (for 100 parts per million)
6 inches	0.35
Depth of water in feet X corresponding multiplier = _____ volume of bleach in ounces.	

3. **Turn the power off to the pump system.** Pump power of 220v can cause serious injuries or death. Please take caution when running the water. Exposed wires may cause harm. Seek professional advice prior to performing any work.
4. Remove the well cap and move the wires out of the way.
5. Add the appropriate amount of chlorine.
6. Turn the power back on to the pump system.
7. In order to mix the chlorine thoroughly throughout the entire water system, it is necessary to circulate the water in the well. This can be accomplished by connecting a hose to an outside silcock that is located after the pressure tank. Use the hose to run water back down the well. After a strong chlorine odor is apparent, rinse the inside of the top of the well and turn off the hose. This could take several minutes to several hours. If after several hours, chlorine is not detected, more chlorine may be added. Turn off the well power; put the cap back on; turn power back on.
8. Turn on each faucet, service, or appliance using water (don't forget outside faucets, washing machine, dishwasher, ice maker, etc.) and run the water until chlorine is detected. Use the pool test kit to confirm

the presence of chlorine. This procedure assures that all the water in the system is chlorinated. Make sure both hot and cold water lines have been filled with chlorinated water.

9. After the system and well are chlorinated, put the water treatment equipment (if any) back into service. Turn on one cold water tap and allow to run for 2 minutes. Put any filtration back offline. This amount of chlorine should be enough to sanitize the equipment.
10. Allow the chlorinated water to stand in the system for at least 6 hours, preferably overnight. After this, connect a hose to an outside faucet and flush the water to an area that will not affect vegetation, streams, or waterways. If this is not possible, you will need to remove the chlorine from the water as you flush it. Flush until chlorine levels are less than 1 ppm.
11. After the system and well is mostly flushed, put the water treatment equipment back into service. Test to be sure there is between 0.5 and 1 ppm of chlorine left in the water. This amount of chlorine should be enough to sanitize the equipment.
12. Flush remainder of chlorine from the water. You may perform a bacterial analysis on the water when you are sure there is no chlorine remaining.

ADDITIONAL WARNINGS:

- Chlorine may break down loose iron deposits, slime, and organic material. This material will make the water run colored. The material broken down may plug pump screens. **Do not continue to run pump if water doesn't flow.** This loose material may also plug aerators on the faucet and screens on appliances. Clogging of pumps, filters, and faucets is common.
- The high level of chlorine required to sanitize a water system is corrosive to most metals; therefore, chlorine solution must not be allowed to remain in water system more than 36 hours before being completely flushed from the system.
- Some wells will recover fast enough to prevent the column of water above the pump to be drawn down to remove the chlorine above the pump. If this is the case, you can connect two hoses to flush the well. One discharging into the well to circulate the water, and the other discharging at the surface.
- The pH of the water can be affected during chlorination.
- There is no guarantee that chlorinating your well will remove bacteria.
- It may take up to 2 weeks to clear chlorine from your water. Pockets of chlorine can get caught and release at a later point without notice. It's recommended you drink and cook with bottled water during this time.



If you have any questions, please contact our team of experts at:

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