

Well Chlorination/Disinfection Instructions

Well chlorination/disinfection is done for many reasons (new well installation; well alteration; unacceptable water samples; plumbing changes; water quality changes; general well maintenance). Here are the recommended general chlorination/disinfection instructions

1. Remove the cap from the top of the well casing. If the well casing is buried or is not accessible you may need to contact a licensed and bonded well contractor.
2. Pour one (1) gallon of **LIQUID** swimming pool chlorine (sodium hypo chlorite) directly into the well casing making sure chlorine makes contact with the entire inside perimeter of the casing itself. [NOTE: Household bleach can be used in place of swimming pool chlorine however it is less concentrated so two (2) gallons may be required to obtain the same effect].
3. It is recommended to mix 2 quarts of white vinegar in a 5 gallon bucket of water. Pour the mixture into the well. NOTE: Vinegar allows for proper adjustment of pH levels which in turn allows chlorine to be more effective.
4. Attach a clean garden hose to an outside spigot and place the hose directly into the well casing. Turn the hose on until a strong chlorine odor from the hose is detected (this may take several minutes). Wash down the interior of the well casing and the drop pipe with the hose in a swirling motion from top to bottom. Remove the hose.
5. Replace and properly secure the well cap.
6. Allow the chlorine to remain in the well for a **minimum of 5 hours** without using any water (toilets may be flushed as needed).
7. Run the chlorine through the entire distribution system. This is done by turning on all of the inside and outside taps/spigots (kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, utility sinks etc.) one by one until the smell of chlorine begins to appear (this may take several minutes). This step will insure that highly chlorinated water will come into contact with all the plumbing fixtures both inside and outside the home.
8. Turn off all taps/spigots and allow the chlorine to remain in the distribution system for an **additional 8 hours** without using any water [NOTE: Longer contact times are permitted and can be more effective. If possible, allow the water to remain in the system for 24-48 hours]. CAUTION: Contact with concentrated levels of chlorine may cause skin, eye & nose irritation.
9. Open the **outside** taps/spigots to flush the chlorine out of the system (this may take several hours). It is recommended that this water be discharge into a ditch or storm sewer if possible to prevent damage to the lawn or any other vegetation. Once the majority of the chlorine is flushed out via the outside taps, the inside household fixtures can now be flushed out until the smell of chlorine is no longer present [Note: Chlorine may remain in the system for several days depending on many factors: well production (GPM); amount of water usage in home etc.).
10. Once this disinfection/chlorination process is completed, you may now contact the Wood County Health Department to schedule a time for water sample to be obtained. The direct number for Environmental Health is (419) 354-2702.