

Lee County Health Departemnt Environmental Engineering

PROCEDURE FOR SANITIZING WELLS

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, 60 DANLEY DRIVE, #1, FT. MYERS, FL 33907 (239) 274-2200

Below is a recommended procedure, which may be used to sanitize and disinfect your well:

POUR LIQUID CHLORINE BLEACH INTO WELL:

Do not use scented chlorine bleach. Use chart to determine amount of bleach to use for your well.

	Well Diameter in Inches				
Well Depth in Feet	2	4	5	6	8
20	8 oz	8 oz	8 oz	16 oz	32 oz
30	8 oz	8 oz	16 oz	16 oz	32 oz
40	8 oz	8 oz	16 oz	16 oz	32 oz
50	8 oz	16 oz	16 oz	32 oz	64 oz
80	8 oz	16 oz	32 oz	32 oz	64 oz
100	16 oz	24 oz	32 oz	48 oz	80 oz
150	16 oz	32 oz	48 oz	64 oz	96 oz
200	16 oz	48 oz	48 oz	64 oz	96 oz
Conversions	8 oz = 1 cup		16 oz = 1 pint		
24 oz = 3 cups	32 oz = 1 quart		48 oz = 1 1/2 quarts		
64 oz = 2 quarts	80 oz = 2 1/2 quarts		96 oz = 3 quarts		

The bleach should be diluted with 10 parts water. For example, dilute 1 cup of bleach with 10 cups of water before pouring it into your well.

ACCESS TO WELL:

- To avoid adding further contamination to the well during the disinfection procedure, first clean up the work area around the top of the well. Remove grease, mineral deposits, and other encrustation from accessible parts of well interior and flush these surfaces with 1/2 cup of laundry bleach in 5 gallons of water.
- Turn off the well pump. Remove the cap on a two-inch well, or the well plug on the rubber seal of a four-inch well. There are many types of well caps and plugs -- if you have questions you should contact a licensed well driller. If you have a submersible pump, you may also want to contact a licensed well driller for advice on disinfection procedures.
- Consult the chart and pour in the recommended amount of bleach solution. (Your county health department may issue additional guidance for your area.) Try to coat the sides of the casing as you pour. If you get chlorine on the pump or wiring, flush it thoroughly with fresh water to prevent later corrosion.
- Re-cap or plug the well opening and wait 30 minutes.
- Turn on and, if needed, reprime the pump. Open all of the outside faucets on the system one by one. Allow the water to run until there is a noticeable smell of chlorine. You may want to direct the water away from sensitive plants. If you cannot detect a chlorine odor, re-chlorinate the system.
- Turn off all of the faucets and allow the chlorine to remain in the system for at least 10-12 hours.

DO NOT USE WATER FOR 10-12 HOURS

Disinfectant must be given time to sterilize the well. Heavy chlorine concentrations are unhealthy for human consumption.

AFTER 10-12 HOURS, flush water (turn water spigots on) at the well until chlorine odor is not detectable. **DO NOT FLUSH WATER BEYOND SOFTENER**, chlorine bleach may damage some types of treatment equipment.

COLLECTING YOUR OWN WATER ANALYSIS:

- Use sterile containers provided by this department
- Submit sample for retest following department procedures

SAMPLE COLLECTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING:

- Notify this department at least two days in advance for scheduling retest sample