

Procedures For Disinfecting A Water Well Supply

Read the following directions carefully before you begin disinfecting your well:

1. Carefully remove the well cap.
2. Pour 1 gallon of liquid bleach, such as Clorox, into the well. Wells deeper than 150 feet may require more bleach in order to disinfect the well completely. **Do not use scented bleach.** Avoid pouring the bleach on the electrical wiring as much as possible.
3. Recirculate water back down into the well through a garden hose. Once a strong chlorine odor is detected, rinse the inside of the well casing for 15 minutes. Avoid the electrical wiring as much as possible.
4. After washing the casing, turn off and remove the hose and reattach the well cap. Be sure to replace any missing or defective parts (bolts, gaskets, etc.) .
5. Turn on each water outlet connected to the water system and allow it to run until a strong chlorine odor is present. Shut off the outlet. Do this to every outlet in the water system.
6. Allow the water system to sit for several hours, preferably overnight. **DO NOT USE THE WATER.**
7. After allowing the system to sit, connect a garden hose to an outside faucet, and let the water run (a few hours) until there is no chlorine smell. This is to avoid running an excessive amount of water into the septic system. Then open the faucets inside the house, and let the water run until there is no chlorine smell. **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER, OR ALLOW ANIMALS TO DRINK THE WATER.**

We strongly recommend sampling the water until a safe sample is drawn. If we don't hear from you within 6 months, we will assume you have taken a sample elsewhere, and have received satisfactory results.

PLEASE NOTE: A fee of \$10 per bottle (used to cover the cost of shipping) will be charged for a resample. Call the Jo Daviess County Environmental Health Office to set up an appointment at 815-777-0283.