



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

JO DAVIESS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

9483 US RT. 20 WEST • P. O. BOX 318 • GALENA, ILLINOIS 61036 • (815) 777-0263

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 **unscented** liquid bleach, such as Clorox, into the well. Wells deeper than 150 feet may require more bleach in order to disinfect the well completely. Avoid pouring the bleach on the electrical wiring as much as possible. **Do not use scented bleach.**
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 the water, 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. Don't forget about outside faucets and washing machines.
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 (may take a few hours). This is to avoid running an excessive amount of water into the septic system. Run the garden hose away from the area of your drainfield. Once no chlorine smell is detected, 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. A new sample is usually submitted 10 days after chlorination to be sure there is no residual chlorine in the system. If we do not 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 \$25 per bottle (covers shipping cost) will be charged for a resample. Call the Jo Daviess County Environmental Health Office to set up an appointment, 815-777-0283.