

Disinfecting a Well

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How Much Bleach Will You Need?

If your well casing is two feet in diameter or less, use the following table to determine how many gallons and quarts of bleach is required.

		Diameter			
		6 inches or less	7 in to 1 ft	13 in to 1.5 ft	19 in to 2 ft
Depth	Up to 150 feet	1 quart	1 gallon, 1 quart	2 gallons, 2 quarts	4 gallons, 2 quarts
	151 to 300 feet	2 quarts	2 gallons, 1 quart	5 gallons	9 gallons
	Over 300 feet	1 gallon	3 gallons	6 gallons	10 gallons, 2 quarts

If your well casing is larger than two feet in diameter, use the following formula to determine how many quarts of bleach you will need, then round up to the next whole number just to be safe. It is better to over-chlorinate than to under-chlorinate. Remember that four quarts equals one gallon.

$$\# \text{ of Quarts of Bleach} = \text{Diameter in feet} \times \text{Diameter in feet} \times \text{Depth in feet} \times 0.0302$$

Disinfecting Your Well

1. Remove the well cover. Pour the required amount of bleach into the well.
2. Turn on all the faucets in the house, one at a time, until you smell chlorine at the faucet. Be sure to run both the hot and cold water at each location. (The purpose of this is to circulate the chlorine through every pipe in the building, ensuring the entire system is disinfected.)
3. Connect a garden hose to an outdoor spigot, or an indoor faucet with the correct threaded fitting. Put the other end of the hose into the well and turn the water on. Move the hose occasionally so that the chlorinated water bathes the sidewalls of the well casing.
4. After a minimum of six hours, turn off the tap, remove the hose from the well and replace the well cover.
5. DO NOT USE THE WATER for at least twelve hours, though forty-eight hours is ideal. Consider taking a weekend trip - go camping, visit friends or relatives....
6. Before using the water again, you will need to purge the well. DO NOT RUN THE WATER INTO THE SEPTIC SYSTEM. The best way to do this is to use the garden hose again, either from an outdoor spigot or an indoor faucet with the correct threaded fitting, and direct the hose to an area where the chlorinated water will not cause environmental damage or affect the water supply of your neighbors. Typically the water will need to run for three to four hours.
7. After one week of use, retest for bacteria.
8. In some cases, one chlorination treatment may not be enough. If bacteria are still present in the retested sample, repeat the above procedure.

Caution!!

To avoid the pump overheating and causing damage, turn off the water if the flow slows to a trickle. Wait at least fifteen minutes before resuming.