



Health and Social Services

# DISINFECTING YOUR WELL

It may be necessary to disinfect your well if results from the bacteriological analysis indicate that your drinking water supply has become contaminated. The follow method outlines the general procedure for disinfection, and is applicable to all types of wells, such as those dug, driven or drilled:

## STEP PROCEDURE FOR DISINFECTING WELLS

- 1 Pour unscented household bleach (5% chlorine) directly into the well, either through the drillpipe, well head or simply by adding it to an open well (preferably through a hose inserted to the bottom of the well). *Check table below for amount of bleach to be added.*  
  
Use caution when handling the chlorine solution. It can bleach clothing, and cause injury to the eyes and skin. In case of spills, wash off area with water for several minutes.
- 2 Start the pump, and draw the chlorine through the system by letting all taps and water devices run for five minutes or until a chlorine odour is detected. Once detected, close taps and water devices.
- 3 Leave and do not use the chlorinated water in the system for a minimum of six hours or overnight. As this is a very strong chlorine solution (about what you would use for cleaning floors) - DO NOT DRINK.
- 4 Start the pump and flush system by letting a tap run until there is virtually no chlorine odour. In the case of a building with a septic system, use outside tap (bib), so as not to drain the strongly chlorinated water into the septic tank. Also, do not drain this water into a stream, ditch, or storm drain which connects with any fish bearing streams.
- 5 After a week, have your drinking water bacteriological tested.

<b>AMOUNT OF BLEACH (5% Chlorine) SOLUTION REQUIRED TO DISINFECT WELL</b>			
<b>Diameter of Well or Pipe</b>		<b>Amount of Bleach per Depth of Water in Well or Pipe</b>	
<b>Inches</b>	<b>Centimeters</b>	<b>per 10 feet</b>	<b>per 3 metres</b>
2	5	1 teaspoon	5 mL
4	10	4 teaspoons	20 mL
6	15	10 teaspoons	50 mL
8	20	7 tablespoons (tbsp.)	100 mL
10	25	1/2 cup + 2 tbsp.	150 mL
12	30	3/4 cup + 1 tbsp.	200 mL
24	60	3 1/2 cups	800 mL
36	90	2 quarts	2.3 L
48	120	3 quarts	3.4 L
60	150	5 quarts	5.7 L
72	180	7 quarts	8.0 L
96	240	3 gallons	13.6 L

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