



St. Lawrence County Public Health Department

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PROCEDURE FOR DISINFECTING A WELL

Use household bleach containing 5.25% available chlorine such as: Clorox, Dazzle, Javex, etc. Do not use any scented varieties such as lemon, etc.

- Mix two (2) quarts of bleach into five (5) gallons of water. Pour the solution into the well. Using your garden hose connected to an outside tap, re-circulate the water back into the well for at least an hour then close the tap, and stop the pump.
- Mix two (2) more quarts of bleach into five (5) gallons of water and pour this chlorine solution into the well. Turn on the water at each tap served by the well, and let it run until a chlorine odor appears at every tap. Then shut the taps off and allow the well to stand idle for at least eight (8) hours but preferably 12 to 24 hours.
- Using your garden hose, pump the water out of the well discharging it to the ground surface. Be sure to direct this water away from the grass and shrubbery since the heavily chlorinated water will burn them. The water should be pumped through the storage tank(s) and preferably through an outside tap for at least one (1) to two (2) hours. The inside taps should be flushed to remove the heavily chlorinated water from the lines. Some chlorine taste and odor may persist for 7 to 10 days depending on how much water is used.
- Once the chlorine odors are gone, the well water should be tested for bacterial contamination prior to potable use. Minimum recommended testing includes Total Coliform and E. coli bacteria.
- Until a satisfactory water sample is obtained, you should follow the boil water advisory on the reverse side of this procedure.

If you have any questions, please the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department at (315) 386-2325.