

## **DISINFECTION PROCEDURE FOR CONTAMINATED WELLS**

### CAN I DISINFECT THE WELL MYSELF?

You can disinfect your own well, if you have a few tools, some household bleach solution, and a knack for do-it-yourself work.

Any ordinary liquid household bleach can be used if it contains 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite. Clorox, Purex, White Magic, Sani-Clor, and Vano are some of the trade names for liquid bleaches sold in grocery stores.

### HOW DO I DISINFECT A WELL?

1. Pump water from the well to waste until it looks relatively clean.
2. After the water flowing from the well looks clear, stop the pump.
3. The bleach may now be added to the well. It may be necessary to lift the pump, but some wells have openings that can be used for this purpose. The bleach should be added between the casing and suction pipe of the pump. See the table for amount of bleach to be used.
4. Do not operate the pump for 30 minutes. After the 30-minute period, surge the well by starting and stopping the pump several times.
5. Next, open every tap, faucet or hydrant in the water piping system, start the pump, and let water flow until clean water with a strong smell of chlorine comes out of each tap.
6. Stop the pump and close all taps, faucets and hydrants. Do not operate the pump for 24 hours.
7. After the 24-hour period, open all taps, faucets and hydrants, start the pump and pump water until all the chlorine odor is gone. Stop the pump and close all taps, faucets and hydrants. The water should now be ready for use as drinking water and for cooking. Bacteriological testing can determine the effectiveness of the disinfection procedure.

### HOW MUCH BLEACH SHOULD I USE?

<b>Amount of Chlorine Bleach Needed</b>				
<b>Depth of Well</b>	<b>Well Diameter</b>			
	<b>3 in.</b>	<b>6 in.</b>	<b>9 in.</b>	<b>12 in.</b>
50 ft	3 oz.	8 oz.	25 oz.	50 oz.
100 ft.	6 oz.	20 oz.	50 oz.	100 oz.
150 ft.	8 oz.	30 oz.	75 oz.	150 oz.
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8 oz. = 1cup	25 oz. = 3 cups	50 oz. = 6 ¼ cups	100 oz. = 12 ½ cups	150 oz. = 19 cups, 1 ¼ gals.

### WHERE CAN I GET HELP IF I HAVE AN UNUSUAL PROBLEM DISINFECTING MY WELL?

Your local Public Health Services Department, Environmental Health Division, may be able to assist you if you have questions about disinfection of wells that are not answered by this leaflet. Contact this office at (661) 862-8740 for further information.