



Schenectady County Public Health Services

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PROCEDURES FOR WELL DISINFECTION

1. Use a fresh bleach solution (1/2 gallon) containing 5.25% available chlorine. Brand names : Clorox (liquid), Purex Bleach, White Sail, 101.
2. Mix 1/2 gallon of bleach with 5 gallons of water.
3. Pour the mixture into the well, either by removing the sanitary seal or through a vent pipe.

CAUTION - It is a good practice to disconnect the electrical power to the pump to avoid electrical shock.

4. Run all taps in the home or business until you can smell the chlorine odor in the water.

Optional - In some cases, it is advisable to recirculate water down the casing or the sides of dug wells for at least one hour. This can be accomplished by using a hose from an outside tap and letting the water run back down into the well. Extreme caution should be used to avoid electrical shock.

5. Shut off all taps and let well stand idle for at least eight (8) hours.
6. After at least 8 hours (preferably 12 to 24 hours), run the water again until the chlorine odor dissipates completely. It is recommended that the chlorinated water be runoff via a hose to an area that avoids grass and/or shrubbery. **DO NOT RUNOFF INTO SEPTIC SYSTEM.**

Note: It is advisable not to bathe in, drink or cook, or wash your colored clothes while the chlorine is still at a high concentration in your water.