



GUIDE 3

GUIDE 3: DISINFECTING YOUR WELL AND WATER SYSTEM

1. Do not turn on the pump.
2. Close the valves so you will bypass your water softener and any other water treatment equipment. A strong chlorine solution can damage this equipment. You should disinfect these devices separately following the manufacturer's instructions.
3. Calculate the amount of bleach needed for your well according to the following table:

This procedure is best done by a licensed well driller or pump installer with the expertise and equipment. However, if you decide to disinfect the well by yourself, carefully follow these steps.

Depth of Water	Diameter of Well					
	0.5 foot	1 foot	2 feet	3 feet	4 feet	5 feet
10 Feet	1/2 cup	1-3/4 cups	7 cups	1 gallon	1-3/4 gallons	2-3/4 gallons
20 feet	1 cup	3-1/2 cups	14 cups	2 gallons	3-1/2 gallons	5-1/2 gallons
30 feet	1-1/2 cups	5-1/4 cups	1-1/4 gallons	3 gallons	5-1/4 gallons	8-1/4 gallons
40 feet	2 cups	7 cups	1-3/4 gallons	4 gallons	7 gallons	11 gallons
50 feet	2-1/2 cups	8-3/4 cups	2-1/4 gallons	5 gallons	8-3/4 gallons	13-3/4 gallons

Notes:

- Use only unscented, household liquid chlorine bleach.
- Bleach concentrations can vary between 5% and 6%.
- Quantities given in this table are approximate and are rounded to the nearest practical measurement. Amounts given are calculated in accordance with reaching a chlorine concentration of 100 mg/L.

Key: 1 cup = 8 fluid ounces | 16 cups = 1 gallon

4. Using water from a known safe source, add a volume of water—at least as great as the volume of water standing in the well—and the bleach into a clean, new garbage can or other comparable containers. When handling bleach, wear rubber gloves and eye protection.
5. Turn off the power supply to the well, remove your well cap or seal, and note any issues with the well that may need repair.
6. Carefully pour the bleach solution down the well in one continuous pour.
7. Connect a new, clean hose to a nearby hose faucet and turn the electrical power back on.
8. Turn the water faucet on and recirculate the chlorinated solution through the hose and back to the well. Be sure you rinse the inside surface of the casing, all the way down to the bottom of the well.
9. Turn off the electrical power and drain both the pressure tank and water heater. Doing this will allow the water from these tanks to be totally replaced by the chlorinated solution.
10. Turn the electrical power to the pump back on. Let the well water refill the pressure tank and water heater.
11. Turn on every water faucet, both inside and outside, until you can smell chlorine in each one.
12. Turn off every faucet, and allow the chlorine solution to remain in the well and plumbing system at least overnight, but preferably for 24 hours.
13. Flush the chlorine solution from the entire water system by using a hose connected to an outside faucet. Run the chlorinated water out of the system, but not into your septic system or into surface waters.
14. Keep running the water until you can no longer notice the smell of chlorine at any faucets.
15. Wait a few days, and then resample your well water to make sure it is bacteriologically safe to drink.

Read more about well cleaning at:
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