

WELL DISINFECTION

Disinfecting your well, (also known as “shocking”), can result in improved water quality. This procedure should be followed on an annual basis.

Procedure for disinfecting a well:

1. A convenient time to do this is in the evening, when you are done using water for the day.
2. Bypass any treatment systems. The chlorine may be harmful to some treatment systems. A push-valve on the top of the water softener cylinder is usually attached for this purpose.
3. Use a fresh gallon of bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite). Make sure there are no other additives such as perfumes.
4. Take the cap off the well casing and using a garden hose, run water down into the well.
5. While the water is running, slowly pour one half to one gallon of the bleach into the well.
6. After 30 minutes, turn off the garden hose and recap the well.
7. Turn on the cold water faucets (sinks, showers and toilets) in the house one at a time until the smell of chlorine comes through, (two or three minutes) then turn it off.
8. Let this chlorinated water stay in the pipes overnight. Avoid drinking the water during the evening and the next morning. The chlorine in the water is not enough to be harmful, but it will taste of chlorine and may have a darker color.
9. After using the water for showering and dish washing etc., the chlorine level will decrease, and towards midday can be used for drinking without an objectionable taste or odor.
10. When there is no more chlorine in your well water (after two or more days of normal water use), a well water test can be taken.

Note: The Health Inspector will take a chlorine residual prior to taking a sample. If chlorine is present, a sample for bacteria will not be taken.