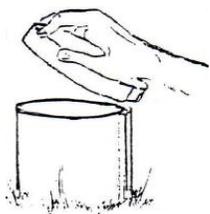


Sandusky County Public Health

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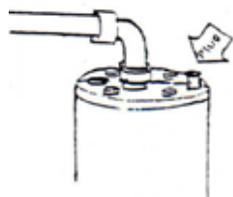
HOW TO DISINFECT A WATER WELL



1. Remove well cap or the vent pipe or plug if the well is equipped with a sanitary well seal. Water softeners, reverse osmosis units and carbon filters may need to be on **by-pass during the chlorination and until sampling**. Manufacturers of water softeners and other water treatment devices should be contacted for specific chlorination instructions for their devices to avoid potential damage.



2. Pour one gallon of vinegar and one gallon of unscented household bleach (5.25% chlorine) directly into the well.
3. Connect a hose to a house spigot and run water directly into the well until **chlorine odor is present** in the water. Rinse the inside of well walls and run water this way for **15 minutes**.



4. Shut off water supply to hose and proceed to systematically open each water fixture inside and outside of the house. One at a time, let water run through each fixture until chlorine odor is present. Include both cold and hot water valves.



5. Close all valves and pour another one gallon of bleach directly into the well. Recap the well or replace the vent pipe or plug. **Leave all valves closed for a period of 12 hours or longer** (toilets may be flushed if needed.)



6. **Open every household fixture one at a time (hot and cold faucets) and let water run until clear. Don't forget dishwasher, washing machine, and ice makers.** Open the hose spigot and discharge water to ground surface or drainage ditch until chlorine odor disappears. You may want to obtain some chlorine test strips to check the water. Test strips can be found wherever swimming pool chemicals are sold.
7. The well should now be properly disinfected. Request your local health department 48 hours after all chlorine is out of the system to collect a sample of your water before using it.

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