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Potable Water System Disinfection Procedure

This procedure is recommended for disinfection of a drinking water well/water system if a confirmation sample tests positive for *Total Coliform* or *Fecal Coliform*.

1. During this procedure, the water will not be drinkable. Plan to do it late at night or at other times when there is little need for water. **Dilute one-half (½) gallon of liquid bleach** in a bucket of water. Large diameter or artesian wells or storage tanks may require more bleach or a modified procedure.
2. **Remove the well cap** on the well casing and **pour the chlorine solution down the well**.
3. Using a clean garden hose, **run water from the house into the casing. Continue for 5 minutes after you first smell chlorine in the water from the hose.**
4. Turn off the hose, and **replace the sanitary seal**.
5. Run each fixture in water system (hot and cold spigots, toilets, etc.) until chlorine is smelled; turn fixture off.
6. Let the chlorine remain in the pipes for at least two (2) hours, **preferably overnight**.
7. **Run water** through hose (not into septic system) to a suitable location until no chlorine is smelled (smell with "fresh" nose to detect low levels) and then run an additional ½ hour.
8. Open all taps, and **flush out the chlorine solution** until you can no longer smell it at any of the taps. The well and distribution system should now be disinfected.
9. **Collect a Total Coliform Bacteria sample** (preferably next day) to insure that the disinfection procedure was successful.
10. Until you receive a satisfactory test result, continue to disinfect drinking water.

Large amounts of chlorine may damage resin in water treatment units; bypass treatment unit before disinfecting the plumbing. To disinfect treatment unit, check with manufacturer.

The above procedure is from Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.
Please contact ADEC (262-5210) or Tauriainen Engineering & Testing (262-4624) regarding any questions.