

Well Cleaning Instructions

As a routine maintenance practice, clean your well at least once each year. You should start out by chlorinating your well every month for one year, quarterly the second year and then twice annually thereafter.

Get Ready

By-pass your water softener and other water treatment equipment! This is important as chlorine in your softener can ruin it.

Add Chlorine or Bleach

Loosen the screws or bolts on the well cap if possible or you might have to tap the cap off gently with a hammer. Gently lift the wires off to the side. If your well has a water tight cap or a well seal or it is an artesian well or flows you might not be able to chlorinate your well, contact us for more information.

For normal household wells add 1 gallon of non-scented household bleach or about an eighth of a cup of granular chlorine. For farms or very deep wells add 2 gallons of non-scented household bleach or one quarter cup of granular chlorine.

Bleach works the best as the chlorine is already in a liquid form so it mixes readily with the water in the well.

Mix And Circulate

Using a garden hose, run the water back into the well, flushing the sides of the casing. Be careful around the splices in the wires. Leave it run for 20 minutes, this will circulate the water and disinfect your water system.

At this point your water may appear off color, this is normal. Continue to circulate the water for another 15 minutes.

Fill several five-gallon pails with the chlorinated water. Turn off the hose and pore the pails of water into the well as fast as possible. This will raise the water level in the well and force the water and chlorine back out into the aquifer.

Remove faucet screens (aerators) and turn on each cold water faucet (Including outside faucets) individually and run until you smell the chlorine. Don't forget to flush the toilets! (Once is enough)

Quiet Period

Turn off the water and let the system sit for 4-8 hours or longer if possible. Try not to use any water. For farms, leave the water sit as long as possible if the 4-8 hours can't be met.

Purge the Well

Run water from one or more outside faucets until you can't smell any more chlorine, this could take as long as 4 or 5 hours. Run the water onto your driveway or into a ditch taking care not to run any bleach water into lakes, streams or onto your grass (especially young grass). Bleach will kill fish, grass and beneficial bacteria in your septic tank. (A small amount in the septic tank is ok if you must flush the toilet.)

Put your water softener back into service and manually regenerate it. Clean and reinstall the screens and aerators in your faucets.

Test your water

Now is the time to take your bacteria, nitrates arsenic or other tests you want with a test kit. Test it within one week after cleaning and again two weeks later if the water was found to be unsafe.