



DISINFECTION OF PRIVATE WATER WELLS

The private water well sample that was recently submitted for testing has shown bacteria present. The water should not be used for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth or bathing a baby until the bacteria has been eliminated.

The following procedure is to be used in disinfecting your well. This can be done by the homeowner or a licensed well contractor. This disinfecting should also be done on a new well or if repair work is done on the well.

1. Check the well seal and vent to be sure that they are in good repair. If not, replace damaged parts.
2. If possible, turn off the power to the well pump. Remove the well seal, carefully pulling the wires aside. Mix a solution of one gallon of household bleach to three gallons of water and pour directly into the well casing being sure to thoroughly wet the inside of the casing. If your well is very deep or if the bacteria concentration is high, repeat this step. Tightly replace the well seal and turn the power back on.
3. Turn on each tap in the home and let the water run until the smell of bleach is noticed, then turn the water off.
4. Allow the chlorinated water to stay in the water lines overnight.
5. On the following day, you will do **only one** of the following procedures:
 - a) If your home is served by a **city sewer**, you may turn on each tap and allow it to run until the odor of bleach is either faint or gone.
 - b) If your home is served by a **septic system**, you should connect a garden hose to an **outside tap** and run the water onto the ground surface away from your septic area until the bleach odor is gone. You then can run the house taps to clear the bleach from them.
6. Three or four days after you can no longer detect a bleach odor, another sample may be collected, using a special bottle. This bottle (obtained from the Health Department) has a chemical that will neutralize any lingering chlorine. **Do not rinse this bottle.**

All private well water should be analyzed for bacteria and nitrate at least once a year. Sample bottles and mailers are available from the Environmental Health Unit located at the Health Department on 811 W. John St. in Yorkville.