

# HOW TO CHLORINATE YOUR WELL - PLEASE READ ENTIRE PROCEDURE BEFORE STARTING

## Introduction

Chlorinating a well is conducted for the following reasons:

1. Presence of coliform bacteria
2. Temporary removal of "rotten egg" odour
3. Temporary removal of iron & manganese build-up
4. Removal of slime forming bacteria

## Procedure

1. Store enough water to meet house needs for a minimum of 24 hours
2. remove or by-pass any filter, water conditioners, or any type of water treatment equipment.
3. Use Table 1 to determine the amount of chlorine solution that is recommended for your water system. For dug wells, use approximately 1 Litre of solution for every 100 Litres of water.
4. Pour the chlorine solution into the well. If your well head is buried, excavation is probably required unless there is an air line leading from the well to your home. The chlorine solution could be applied through the air line either by inserting the air line into the chlorine solution and pumping your well until all the solution is consumed or simply by pouring the solution into the air line. Flush the air line out with clean water after you are finished.
5. Attach a garden hose to an outside faucet and place the other end into the well. Turn on the outside faucet and allow the water to circulate for approximately 1 hour.

*If your well head is buried and you have chosen not to excavate, or the garden hose cannot be connected to the air line, please disregard this step.*

**TABLE 1.**

Well Depth in Feet	Volume of Chlorination Solution(Litres) per Diameter of Well		
	4 Inch	5 Inch	6 Inch
less than 50	1	2	3.5
50-100	2	4	7
100-150	3.5	7	10
150-200	4.5	9	13.5
200-250	5.5	11	17
250-300	7	13.5	20.5
300-350	8	16	24
350-400	9	18	27

flow until a strong chlorine odour is no longer present. If you have a low yield well, be careful not to pump the well dry.

*During this procedure, the water may have the color of tea but should improve after a short time. Aeration screens in faucets and the cold water inlet of washing machines may become plugged with sediment. For water systems equipped with jet pumps, there is also a possibility of the jet becoming plugged. If the jet is located in the well, please be aware of this possibility.*

9. Turn on each faucet (one at a time) in the house as in step 6 and run the water until the odour of chlorine is no longer present. It is recommended that you do not drink the water during this flushing period.
10. Normal water usage may be resumed, it may be 2 to 3 days before all the chlorine odour & taste is gone. If your water problem is coliform bacteria, a follow up sample should be collected and analysed before consumption begins. This follow-up sample should be collected about 1 week after step 9 is completed.
11. If this procedure results in a noticeable improvement of your water quality, but the problem redevelops after 2-3 weeks, repeat the above steps using 2-3 times the amount of chlorine solution recommended in step 3. In addition, increase step 7 to a minimum 24 hour period.

*Note: Depending on the characteristics of your well water quality, it may be necessary to chlorinate your well water more than once a year. Chlorination may or may not improve your well water quality and in some cases only provides a short term solution. There are many household water treatment systems available which can provide a permanent solution if this is the case.*

6. Open each faucet in the distribution system (including inside & outside faucets, cold & hot water faucets, dishwasher, toilets, baths, and showers) one at a time until the smell of chlorine is apparent, then quickly shut them off.
7. Do not operate your water system for a minimum of 8 hours (i.e. overnight) or longer if possible. A 24 hour period is recommended but not always practical.
8. Place the end of the garden hose at a location away from your septic system as the chlorinated water may have negative effects on the biological activity of a septic system. Also choose a spot where the chlorinated water will not damage any desired vegetation. Allow the water to