

DISINFECTING A PRIVATE WELL

- USE NON-SCENTED CHLORINE BLEACH with a BLEACH solution greater than 5.25% solution. Less strength bleach is available double or increase amount of bleach accordingly.
- If you have water treatment devices, remove all membranes, filters, cartridges, charcoal filters, etc. after the chlorination process is completed.
- If the water is discolored or if you have debris in your dug well, clean the well of debris. Do not disinfect the well until floodwaters have receded.
- Run water until it is relatively clear.
- Turn off; drain your storage tank and hot water tank, so that chlorinated water will also enter that tank.
- Mix up a batch of chlorinated water in a 5-gallon pail and use this mixture to clean along the top of the well. ½ cup to 1 cup of bleach (5.25%) in 5 gallons of water is a relatively good concentration.
- If you feel uncomfortable doing the disinfection process, contact a licensed plumber, pump installer or well driller.
- The chlorine batch in the 5-gallon bucket should be poured into the well so that it swirls around the interior casing.
- Re-cap the well and then proceed to open each hot and cold faucet (inside and outside the house), until a distinct chlorine odor is observed. Then shut each faucet.
- If you do not detect a strong chlorine odor you may want to add more bleach and repeat the process.
- Allow the chlorinated water to remain in the water system for at least 6 hours and preferably overnight.
- Backwash water softeners, sand filters and iron removal filters with chlorinated water.
- Open all faucets individually and run the water until there is no chlorine smell – may take 15 minutes or more.
- Make sure on outside faucets that chlorinated water be diverted from plants, shrubs because chlorinated water will kill the vegetation.
- If a resident is uncomfortable performing the disinfection process, a licensed plumber, pump installer, or well driller should be contacted to perform the disinfection.

Additional Resources:

Connecticut DPH:

www.dph.state.ct.us

Approved CT Labs:

http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Environmental_Lab/environmental_laboratory.htm

EPA: website: www.epa.gov/safewater/privatewells

“What To Do After The Flood”- private wells and septic systems:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/privatewells/whatdo.html>

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/faq/emerg_septic.html