



# How to Disinfect a Water Well

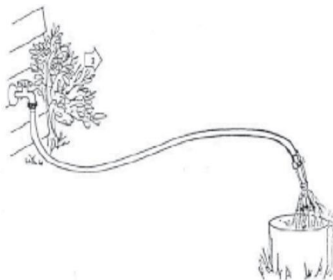


Remove the well cap.

Add 2 gallons of non-scented household bleach (5.25% chlorine) to 5 gallons of water and pour directly into the well.



Add 1 quart of white vinegar to a 5-gallon bucket of water, add this solution to the well.

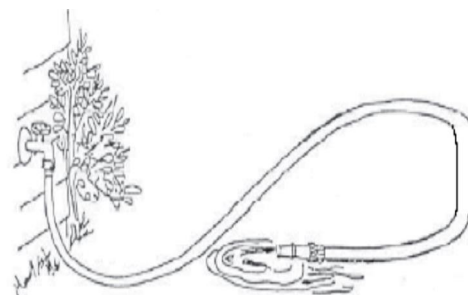


Connect a hose to an outdoor faucet and run water directly into the well until a chlorine odor is present in the water. Run the water for 15 minutes, agitating water in a circular motion to wash down the side walls of the well casing.

Shut off water supply to the hose. Open each water fixture inside and outside the home individually until a chlorine odor is detected. Do not by-pass the water softener or the water heater. Remove and discard any carbon filters or cartridge filter elements and thoroughly clean the inside of the filter housing. Once the odor has been detected, shut off the water and move to the next water fixture and repeat. Include both cold and hot water valves and all outside taps.

Leave all fixtures closed at least 12 hours. (Toilets may be flushed if needed).

After the above steps have been completed, open the outdoor faucet and discharge water to ground surface or drainage ditch until the chlorine odor disappears. This could take two to three hours. **DO NOT DISCHARGE TO SEWAGE SYSTEM, AS THIS MAY CAUSE DAMAGE.** When bleach odor is no longer detected, open every household fixture simultaneously & let water run until chlorine is gone from the lines (for approximately 5 minutes).



The well should now be properly disinfected. Call the Belmont County Board of Health at (740) 695-1202 to collect a sample of your water before using it. For additional information please visit our website at [www.belmontcountyhealth.org](http://www.belmontcountyhealth.org).