

Disinfection Procedures for Flooded Wells

1. Run water from an outside hose until the water runs clear.
2. Turn off power to the pump.
3. Mix 1 quart of unscented chlorine bleach into a 5 gallon bucket. Add water to bring the level to within 2-3" of the top of the bucket.
4. Drain pressure tank by opening the sample tap. The sample tap is the spigot located very near the pressure tank. If there is no sample tap then open a faucet nearest the pressure tank. Close the sample tap or faucet.
5. Remove the well cap. Be careful not to drop bolts down the well. Carefully move the pump wires out of the well head so that you have room to work.
6. Pour the bleach/water mixture from the bucket into the well.
7. Turn on the power to the pump.
8. Run water through an outside hose and into the well. Wash the inside of the well casing with water. Do this for at least 5 minutes. You should smell chlorine. If you fail to smell chlorine then continue washing until you smell chlorine.
9. Turn power to the pump off. Place the pump wires back into the well. Put the well cap back on. Make sure that the rubber O-ring seals the well cap to the casing.
10. Turn on the power to the pump.
11. Open all the faucets in the house until you smell chlorine.
12. Let the chlorine solution sit in the pipes at least 6 hours, preferably 24 hours.
13. Turn on an outside hose and let the water run until the water is clear and you no longer smell chlorine. Make sure the water is discharged to an area that won't be damaged by the chlorine. Do not let the chlorinated water directly enter surface water (i.e. river, pond, etc.).
14. Finish flushing the chlorine solution from the well and household plumbing by turning on all the faucets for at least 5 minutes.
15. Continue to use bottled water, or water from another safe source, for drinking, cooking or any use that might lead to ingestion of the water. Be particularly careful with very young, old or immuno compromised individuals. Use the well water for other uses to continue to flush water through the system. Continue this until the well tests safe for bacteria.
16. Wait a minimum of two to five days after chlorinating the well before collecting a water sample to test for bacteria. If this first sample tests safe, begin using the water for all purposes and test the water again in two weeks.

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