

Wyoming County Health Department
Environmental Health Division
5362 Mungers Mill Road, Silver Springs, NY 14550
585-786-8894

DISINFECTION OF WELLS:*

After a well is constructed and pumped clear, or after any improvements are made, it should be disinfected with a chlorine bleach such as Clorox, Purex, 101, etc. Here is the procedure for disinfecting a well:

1. Mix 2 quarts of bleach in 10 gallons of water. Pour the solution into the well while it is being pumped. Keep pumping until the chlorine odor appears at all taps. Recirculate the water back into the well for at least an hour. Then close the tap and stop the pump.
2. Mix 2 more quarts of bleach in 10 gallons of water and pour this chlorine solution into the well. Allow the well to stand idle for at least 8 hours and preferably 12 to 24 hours.
3. Pump the well to waste, away from grass and shrubbery, through the storage tanks and taps, such as an outside connection, until the odor of chlorine disappears. Note: Chlorine may persist for a few days depending on the volume of water used.

After all the chlorine is pumped out, a water sample should be collected and tested by the health department to determine whether all contamination has been eliminated. **Make sure all chlorine has been pumped out of the well (no chlorine taste or odor) before a sample is collected.**

Proper disinfection of flowing wells or springs requires special treatment, which the health department will explain in specific instances.

Remember that disinfection is no assurance that water entering the well or spring is free of pollution.

EMERGENCY DISINFECTION:

The water should be as clear as possible; let muddy or cloudy water settle, then pour off the clear water into a separate container and filter through a clean cloth or milk strainer.

The safest way to make a small volume of water satisfactory for drinking is to bring the water to a rolling boil for at least 2 minutes, cool and store in a clean, protected container.

Chemical disinfection of clear water is summarized as follows: (If water is turbid or colored, double amount of disinfection.)

Disinfectant	Drops per gallon of water
5% chlorine solution	10

Mix treated water thoroughly and let stand 30 minutes before using.

* Rural Water Supply, 1966 Edition, NYSDOH