

Vernon County Health Department

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Public Health
Protect. Promote. Prevent.

DISINFECTION OF THE WELL AND WATER SYSTEM

Once an inspection has determined that your water system is free from any sources of apparent contamination, you should disinfect the well. Although there are many ways to properly disinfect a well, the following technique has been proven effective in most cases.

1. Mix one gallon of household laundry bleach with 100 gallons of water. If your well is more than 150 feet deep, mix two gallons of bleach with 200 gallons of water. If you do not have a container for mixing the solution all at once, you can mix 25 gallons at a time in four clean plastic garbage containers and put the chlorinated water in the well in rapid succession.
2. Remove the cap from the well and pour the entire bleach and water solution into the well.
3. Rinse down the sides of the well casing with the garden hose for 5 to 10 minutes. The rinse water should be from a hose on the well water system being disinfected. This procedure circulates the bleach through the water system to insure better disinfection.
4. If you wish to disinfect your plumbing system, turn all cold water taps on until you smell the bleach. Then turn the taps off.
5. Let the bleach remain in the system for at least eight hours (preferably 24 hours.)
6. Pump all the bleach out of the system by running the water through a garden hose to an area where the bleach will not damage lawns, shrubs, or septic systems. Pump until you can no longer smell the bleach.
7. Two or three days after disinfection, a sample from the well should be submitted for bacteriological analysis. One month after the disinfection, a sample from the well should be submitted for bacteriological analysis to make sure the well is maintaining its safe quality.