

## DISINFECTION PROCEDURE FOR WELLS, CISTERNS OR DRINKING WATER STORAGE TANKS

### To Disinfect Drilled Wells:

Depth of water in well (feet)	Well Diameter (inches)						
	3	4	5	6	8	10	12
20	1C	1C	1C	1C	1.5C	2.5C	1Q
40	1C	1C	1.5C	2C	3C	5C	2Q
80	1C	1.5C	2.5C	1Q	6.5C	9C	1G
100	1.5C	2C	3C	4.5C	2Q	12.5C	4.5Q
125	1.5C	2.5C	4C	1.5Q	2.5Q	1G	1.5G
150	2C	3C	4.5C	2Q	3Q	5Q	2G
175	2C	3.5C	1.5Q	2Q	3.5Q	5.5Q	2G
200	2.5C	1Q	1.5Q	2.5Q	1G	1.5G	2.5G
225	2.5C	1.5Q	2Q	2.5Q	1.5G	2G	2.5G

C = Cups, Q = Quart, G = Gallon

1. Using the chart above, determine the amount of laundry bleach (5.25% chlorine) to be used.
2. Mix the total amount of bleach required with about 10 gallons of water.
3. Remove the well cap and pour the solution into the top of the well.
4. Connect a hose from a faucet on the discharge side of the pressure tank and run water back down the well for at least 15 to 20 minutes.
5. Open every faucet in the system and let the water run until the smell of chlorine can be detected. Close all faucets. Turn off the water heater during this time. Seal or cap the top of the well.
6. Let stand for at least 12 hours, preferably 24 hours.
7. After standing, operate the pump by turning on all faucets and allowing the water to run until all chlorine odor and taste disappears. Retest the water when it becomes chlorine free, usually after several days of normal household use.

**To Disinfect Bored or Dug Wells:**

1. Determine the amount of bleach to be used based on the diameter of the well in feet.

Diameter of well (feet)	Cups of 5.25% Laundry Bleach Per Foot of Water
3	1.5
4	3.0
5	4.5
6	6.0
7	9.0
8	12
10	18

2. Multiply this amount of bleach by the depth of the well to calculate the total cups of bleach needed. Example: A well 5 feet in diameter requires 4.5 cups of bleach per foot of water. If the well is 30 feet deep, multiply 4.5 by 30 for a total of 135 cups of bleach needed to disinfect the well. (There are sixteen cups in a gallon.)
3. Add the total amount of bleach needed to 10 gallons of water. Splash the mixture around the wall or lining of the well. Be certain the disinfectant solution contacts all parts of the well.
4. Seal the well top.
5. Continue as indicated in steps 5-7 under To Disinfect Drilled Wells.

**To Disinfect Cisterns, Water Storage Tanks:**

1. Pump out or drain the water. Scrub down the interior walls. Fill or allow the tank to refill with clear water.
2. Calculate, if it is not known, the capacity of the tank by using one of the following formulas. All measurements are in feet.
  - a. Square or Rectangular Tank Capacity (gallons) = Length x Width x Depth x 7.5
  - b. Cylindrical Tank Capacity (gallons) = Diameter x Diameter x Length x 5.9
3. Based on the capacity, add the following amount of bleach directly into the cistem or storage tank.

Capacity (Gallons)	Quarts of Bleach (5.25%) to Add
500	2
750	3
1000	4
2000	8
4000	16

4. Continue with steps 5-7 under To Disinfect Drilled Wells.