



Shock chlorination process for drilled water wells

WARNING: Use caution when handling chlorine bleach. Read and follow all precautions and instructions on the product label. Never combine chlorine solutions with other cleaning products or ammonia, because toxic gases may be formed.
Make sure that no one drinks water from any faucet during the chlorination period!

Plan ahead	You will not be able to use your household water for 24 hours during the chlorination process.
If you have water treatment in your home	Most water treatment equipment, such as water softeners, iron filters and sand filters should also be shock chlorinated. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions concerning chlorination of any treatment equipment or pressure tank.
Add bleach to the well	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add 4 gallons of water to a clean 5-gallon water bucket. Carefully pour 1 gallon of plain (unscented) chlorine laundry bleach into the bucket and stir well. 2. Remove the sanitary well cap from the top of the well casing. 3. Pour the bleach solution into the well casing.
Disinfect the casing, plumbing, well and fixtures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. If an outside faucet is available, connect a garden hose to the faucet, place the outlet end inside the well casing and circulate the water through your plumbing, well and fixtures. 5. Run water through each indoor and outdoor faucet, one at a time, until you can smell the chlorine bleach passing through it. If you can’t smell chlorine at all of the faucets, make another 5 gallons of bleach solution (1 gallon of bleach in 4 gallons of water) and add it to the well as directed above. Continue running water through each tap until chlorine can be detected at every faucet. 6. Replace the sanitary well cap.
Disinfect for 24 hours	7. Leave the chlorinated water standing in the system for 24 hours. Except for toilet use, do not use household water for any purpose during this time.
Flush the chlorine from the system	8. After 24 hours, flush the remaining chlorine from the system. Run water through the outside faucets until the chlorine smell is no longer detectable.
Schedule a follow-up water screening	9. Call the Health Department at (785) 843-3060 to arrange to have your well screened for bacteria again. A one-week waiting period after the chlorination is usually sufficient to determine if bacteria has recontaminated the water supply.