



# Boone County Health Department

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

1204 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008  
Main Office 815.544.2951 Clinic 815.544.9730 Fax 815.544.2050  
www.boonehealth.org

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*The mission of the Boone County Health Department is to serve our community by preventing the spread of disease, promoting equitable wellness & protecting the public's health.*

## **CHLORINATION OF A PRIVATE WATER WELL**

A new well, or one which has been cleaned or repaired, normally contains contamination which may remain for weeks unless the well is thoroughly disinfected. This may be accomplished by the use of ordinary laundry bleach solution. For the average home well, 3 cups of bleach per 100 gallons of water will be adequate. See the back of this page for a diagram of a typical well.

**WARNING:** Disconnect power supply prior to chlorination to eliminate risk of electric shock.

**CAUTION:** To ensure minimum bodily contact with the chlorine disinfectant, **DO NOT TAKE SHOWERS** or bathe until steps have been completed.

1. Any laundry bleach having an active ingredient of either sodium, calcium or potassium hypochlorite when mixed with water will yield the necessary chlorine solution. Each gallon of bleach should be mixed with five gallons of water (one part bleach to five parts water).
2. Remove the sanitary well seal and pour the solution (disinfectant) down along the insides of the well casing, flushing as much of the inside surfaces as possible. (See drawing)
3. The water in the well must be agitated to mix the solution thoroughly. This can be done by alternately starting and stopping the pump.
4. Open all faucets in the water distribution system and allow them to run until you can smell chlorine in the water.
5. Close all valves let stand 2 hours then run each tap for 10 seconds and close again. Allow chlorinated water to set at least 8 hours, and preferably overnight.
6. After a minimum of (8) eight hours, preferably on the following morning:
  - A. If you have public sewers, run each tap until the disinfectant odor disappears.
  - B. If you have a septic system, connect a garden hose to an outside water faucet and run the water into a road ditch until the disinfectant odor disappears.
7. After all evidence of chlorine taste and smell is gone, wait 10 days, resample and retest. **Test strips are available from the Boone County Health Dept. to test the concentration of chlorine left in the water, with the desired result being zero parts per million before retesting.**
8. Until you have a satisfactory test of your water supply, it is recommended to boil all drinking water for a minimum of five (5) minutes. Continued drinking of water contaminated with coliform bacteria may cause illness. Waterborne diseases such as typhoid, cholera, infectious hepatitis and dysentery have been traced to improperly disinfected drinking water.
9. It is required that a resample be collected, and ultimately, that a satisfactory water sample be obtained from the well.
10. It is suggested that your water be tested for bacterial contamination annually, or after a plumbing activity or replacement of any well components.

## DIAGRAM OF A TYPICAL WELL

