

DISINFECTION OF WATER SUPPLY WELLS

Has your water supply recently been tested and is now considered unsafe to drink? The water sample contained germs from the intestinal discharge from humans, domestic, or wild animals. Before this water can be used again for human consumption, the following steps should be taken:

1. **The water supply installed should be thoroughly inspected to determine any sources of contamination.** Your pump installer or a Health Department representative can assist you. Any deficiencies should be corrected.
2. **After every possible contamination source has been eliminated, the water supply should be disinfected as follows:**
 - a. Add 1 gallon of 5% available chlorine household bleach (use the regular kind not scented). If possible mix together 10 gallons of water plus the bleach and introduce mixture into the well, between the well casing and the pump drop line.
 - b. Start the pump and open all the faucets (sinks, tubs, etc.) on the system. Flush all toilets on the system. Pump until chlorine odor is detected at the faucets. Connect a hose to an outside faucet and wash down the well casing (for 15 minutes) and all parts of the well equipment which are exposed to the elements. Close all faucets and stop the pump. Allow the chlorine solution to remain in the well storage tank and distribution system for a minimum of 8 hours. (24 hours ideal time). This procedure is a complete flushing and disinfecting of the entire distribution system which is necessary to eliminate all points of bacterial contamination.
 - c. Pump well to waste water until the odor and taste of the chlorine has disappeared. Excessive amounts of contamination in the well or water supply may require repeating the disinfecting process. It is suggested

that this be done once a year if possible whether you need it or not just to be on the safe side.

3. Two days after disinfection, collect a sample of water for bacterial analysis using only a sterile container supplied by Three Lakes Water and Sanitation, The Colorado Department of Health, The Local Health Department or County Public Health Nurses office.

The following temporary measures can be used to treat water for drinking and cooking purposes until the well can be returned to service:

1. Boil the water briskly for ten minutes.
2. Disinfect the water with household bleach (5%)

GALLONS OF H2O	CLEAR H2O	CLOUDY H2O
1	8 Drops bleach	1 tsp. bleach
2	1 tsp. bleach	2 tsp. bleach
5	2 tsp. bleach	1 Tblsp bleach
100	1 oz. bleach	1.5 oz. bleach
1,000	1 Cup bleach	1 Pint bleach