

Water Well Disinfection Procedure for Homeowners

1. If the water is cloudy, pump the well until the water runs clear. Run water for several hours, if possible.
2. Remove the well cap (or vent pipe or plug if well is equipped with a sanitary well seal).
3. Add one quart of **white vinegar** to a *clean* five-gallon bucket of water and pour directly into the well. Repeat this step so that a total of two quarts of vinegar is added to the well. Re-circulate the water through a hose back into the well until vinegar odor is present in the water coming from the hose.
4. Mix one gallon of **fresh, unscented household bleach** with four gallons of water in a *clean* five-gallon bucket and pour directly into the well. Repeat this step so that a total of two gallons of chlorine is added to the well.

Note: It is recommended that water softeners and other treatment units be bypassed during this process, as strong concentrations of chlorine could cause damage to these units. However, it is important that these units are disinfected in order to avoid re-contamination of the entire system. Consult manufacturer's instructions for specific directions on disinfection of water treatment equipment.

5. Run water through a hose until chlorine odor is present. Run the chlorinated water down the well casing for 15 minutes to thoroughly rinse the well casing interior. Turn off water supply to the hose and replace the well cap.
6. Turn on **all plumbing fixtures** on the property that are connected to the well. (This includes toilets, clothes washer, outdoor spigots or hydrants, etc.) Let water run through hot and cold water valves until chlorine odor is present. Turn off all fixtures.
7. Allow the water supply to sit undisturbed for a minimum of 12 hours. A 24-48 hour contact time is optimal.
8. Run water through a hose away from the house and septic system until chlorine odor is gone. After this has been done, run water from each fixture until chlorine odor is gone.
9. Contact the Van Wert County Health Department to request a water sample.