

Annual Well Cleaning Instructions

Items needed:

1-4 Gallons of chlorine bleach (household bleach)

or 5-6 Tablets of 1' solid swimming pool chlorine tablets (HTH)

1-4 Five gallon pails

“Iron out” or similar product to clean water softener

You may want to set aside some water for personal use

1. **Get Ready-** By-pass your water softener and other water treatment equipment. At the same time, this is a good chance to clean your faucet screens and water softener system with “Iron Out” or a like product. Caution: Do not use “Iron Out” if you have a Zeolite type softener.
2. **ADD Chlorine** Loosen the set screws on the well cap, and remove the well cap (you may have to tap it off with a hammer). Add one to four gallons bleach to your well. Optional Also add 5-6 tablets of 1' solid swimming pool chlorine (HTH).
3. **Mix and circulate.** Run water into your well with a garden hose- wide open, continue running or one-half hour. This will mix the chlorine and water in your well. At this point the water may appear off color, which is normal. As an option, periodically turn off the hose and pour a series of 5 gallon pails of water into the well to raise the head of the well and force chlorine into the aquifer.
4. At each faucet (inside and out) remove the faucet screen and let the cold water run until you smell bleach, then turn off the faucet and go to the next faucet. Be careful not to get too much chlorine into your septic tank. Your family may flush the toilet (for personal needs) a couple of times if needed. More than that could kill needed bacteria in your septic tank.
5. **Quiet Period-**Turn off all the water in your house (inside and out) and let the entire system sit quietly for 6 to 12 hours. Do not use any water if possible.
6. **Purge the well-**After 6 to 12 hours, get rid of the chlorine by running water from an outside faucet for 1 to 8 hours or until the water clears up and the smell of chlorine disappears. Run the water unto your driveway, the ditch or road. Bleach kills fish and grass do not run into lakes, streams or your lawn.
7. Put your water softener back into service and manually regenerate. Soak and clean your faucet screens with vinegar before replacing.
8. Test your water for bacteria within 1 week after cleaning and again in 2 weeks if water is found to be unsafe.
9. **As a routine maintenance practice, clean your well at least once a year. If you have an iron or sulfur bacteria problem, clean more often.**