

Well Sterilization Procedure

1. Once you begin this sterilization procedure, do not use your well water for drinking, cooking, bathing, or any household use until the entire process is complete.
2. Turn power **OFF** to the well.
3. Put on **safety glasses and rubber gloves**. Strong bleach solutions can burn your skin and eyes.
4. Pour **5–6 gallons of plain, unscented bleach** into the well casing. Do not use bleach with scents or additives.
5. If bleach comes into contact with your skin, wash immediately with large amounts of water. If it gets into your eyes, flush thoroughly with water and seek medical attention.
6. Most home wells have a **4-inch casing** with a submerged pump. There is typically a plug at the top near where the wires enter the well. Remove this plug and pour the bleach into the casing. Alternatively, bleach may be poured through the opening where the wires enter.
7. Allow the bleach to stand in the well for **2–3 hours**, then turn the power back **ON** to the well.
8. Open all faucets **ONE AT A TIME**, starting with the **outside faucet nearest to the well**. Run each faucet until a strong chlorine (bleach) odor is detected.
9. Once chlorine is detected, turn the faucet off and allow it to sit for **1 hour**. Repeat this process for all faucets, including both **hot and cold-water** lines.

Note: A swimming pool test kit may be used to confirm the presence of chlorine.

10. After all plumbing has been filled with chlorinated water and allowed to sit, begin flushing the system.
11. Start again with the **outside faucet nearest to the well**. Run the water until the chlorine odor is no longer present, then continue flushing for an additional **30 minutes**. Alternatively, use a pool test kit and flush until **total chlorine is non-detectable**.
12. Continue flushing all remaining outside faucets, then proceed to indoor faucets, ensuring both **hot and cold** lines are flushed.
13. Be aware that highly concentrated bleach water may damage grass or plants. It is recommended to attach a hose to outside faucets and direct the discharge away from vegetation.
14. Beginning the flushing process at the outside faucet nearest the well will help minimize chlorine odor inside the home.
15. This procedure will disinfect the entire well and plumbing system. Do not use the water during this process.