Renfrew County and District Health Unit

Private Well Disinfection Instructions

1. Store enough clean water to meet household needs for a minimum of 12 hours.

2. Bypass or disconnect any carbon filters, water softeners or other water treatment devices or else any pipes located past these filters will not be disinfected. Replace the filters once chlorination is completed. Highly chlorinated water can damage treatment units. It is important to follow the manufacturer's recommendations to ensure treatment systems are properly disinfected and not damaged. Be sure that the hot water tank's heat source is shut off.

3. Estimate the chlorine necessary to disinfect the water in the buildings plumbing including the hot water tank, and the chlorine necessary to disinfect the water in the well water column. Add them together.

    - **Drilled well:** 1 cup of normal household bleach for every 25 feet of water in the well.
    - **Dug well:** 1 liter of normal household bleach per every 5 feet of water.

    A chlorine calculator is available at:
https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/Tools/Pages/Well-Disinfection-Tool.aspx

4. Pour the required amount of chlorine directly into your well.

5. If possible, mix the water in the well. This can be accomplished by attaching a hose to a tap and running water from the well through the hose and back into the well.

6. Open all water taps one at a time, including outside hose bibs and cold and hot water taps and laundry hook-ups. Allow the water to run until a chlorine smell is detected from each faucet then turn off each tap. Since chlorinated water can damage the action in a septic system, chlorinated water should not be allowed into the building's sewage system.

7. If a strong chlorine odour is **NOT** present, return to step 4 and add half the amount of chlorine used for the initial treatment to the well, then repeat steps 5 and 6.

8. Let the chlorinated water stand in the system for a minimum of 12 hours.

9. Run water through the outside hose away from vegetation until the strong smell of chlorine disappears. Make certain that the water does not enter any watercourse. Finally, open each and every indoor tap until the system is completely flushed. Taps or fixtures discharging to the septic tank systems should be temporarily diverted to an outside discharge point to avoid affecting the septic system.

10. Wait at least a couple of days after shocking or when all the chlorine is out of the well water, and then sample the water using the bottle and instructions provided by the Health Unit. Two consecutive tests that show no bacteria present, performed on samples obtained over a period of one to three weeks, should indicate that the treatment has been effective.

11. If the above steps do not fix the problem, you may want to speak with a public health inspector for assistance at 613-735-8654, extension 555 or visit www.rcdhu.com.