



Private Water Well Disinfection Fact Sheet

The Will County Health Department recommends that homeowners work with a licensed well contractor to disinfect their private well, but if a homeowner wants to disinfect their well themselves, then the following procedure can be extremely helpful. This procedure should also be used for the disinfection of new wells or following the repair of existing wells.



1

Check the well seal and vent to be certain of good, tight construction. Replace any worn or damaged parts.



2

Remove the well seal. Mix one gallon of ordinary bleach with three gallons of clean water in a clean bucket (if bleach comes in contact with skin or cloth, rinse immediately). Pour this solution directly into the well casing, making sure that the inside of the casing pipe is rinsed with the bleach solution. With the use of a clean garden hose, re-circulate the chlorinated water back into the well casing for 10-15 minutes. This process will disinfect the well. Replace the well seal and be sure the connection is watertight.



3

Turn on the each water faucet (including your utility sink) in your home and let them run until you can smell the chlorine bleach at each tap.



Private Water Well Disinfection Fact Sheet



4

Turn off the taps and allow the solution to stand in the water lines several hours or overnight.



5

The following morning, connect a garden hose to an outside tap and run the water into the roadside ditch until the odor of the bleach has dissipated. Resume normal use of water faucets at this time.



6

Wait 3-5 days before taking a new sample and bringing it to the Will County Health Department laboratory or one of the two branch locations (Bolingbrook & Monee). If there is any chlorine present in the sample, the laboratory will run the sample and the sample will be declared invalid.

All water from private wells should be analyzed for bacteria at least once every year. Sample bottles for this purpose are available at the Will County Health Department Environmental Health Lab and branch offices from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

If further information is desired, please do not hesitate to contact the Environmental Health Division. For your convenience, members of the Environmental Health staff are available for consultation Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am - 4:30 pm (excluding holidays).