Disinfecting Your Well

This procedure is designed for the typical four-inch (4”) diameter well with a submersible pump. Your well may be different. If so, you may need to contact a professional to disinfect the system.

1. **Shut off power to pump and water heater.** Drain water from the pressure tank, water heater, and all water lines (including indoor water lines at faucets). Consult with the water treatment or filtration system manufacturer for any additional or special instructions.

2. Obtain one of the following:
   - One (1) gallon of unscented household bleach (5-6% sodium hypochlorite).
   - Half (½) gallon of liquid pool chlorine (10% sodium hypochlorite).

   **The bigger your water distribution system, the more chlorine solution you will need for effective disinfection.**

3. Add the bleach/pool chlorine to four to five (4-5) gallons of water in a well ventilate area. You can use the same well water that you are disinfecting.

4. Remove one-half inch (1/2”) access plug from top of casing (see diagram above) and pour chlorine solution into well through opening. Follow with two gallons of plain water. Replace plug.

5. Turn power on, start pump, and fill the pressure tank. Open all faucets, one at a time, until bleach odor of the chlorine is recognized, then close spigots.

6. **Do not use any water from the system for 10 to 12 hours** - water will have a high concentration of chlorine and may irritate sensitive tissues. Allow power to remain on to maintain pressure in tank.

7. After 10 to 12 hours, thoroughly drain and flush both tanks (*hot water and pressure*) and all lines (*including shower heads*); allowing water to run from faucets until no odor of chlorine bleach is present. **Flush outside lines first.** If you don’t detect a chlorine odor upon flushing, re-disinfect the well. Please note that chlorine may also harm plants and animals.

8. After another eight hours, samples may be submitted to a laboratory for testing.