Step 7

Use a sterile container from a qualified lab to collect a new sample of water for bacteriological analysis.

Have the lab run another "Total Coliform Test" to confirm that the disinfection was successful.

Step 8

Until the well is confirmed as disinfected and can be returned to service, temporary measures can be taken to treat water for drinking and cooking purposes:

- All water to be treated should be clear, not cloudy or muddy.
- Boil water briskly for 10 minutes and then disinfect with household bleach by adding one teaspoon of bleach to two gallons of water.
- Cover the container of water and shake well.
- Let the treated water stand for 20-30 minutes prior to use.
- Store boiled and chlorinated water in clean, covered containers. Glass or plastic containers designed for holding food or beverages are preferred.

For additional information on well disinfection or other water quality conditions, contact your nearest Tri-County Health Department office, listed on the back.

Tri-County Health Department

Administrative Office
6162 South Willow Drive #100
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
(East of I-25 and south of Orchard Road)
303-220-9200

Aurora Office
Altura Plaza (Courthouse Building)
15400 E. 14th Place #309
Aurora, CO 80011-5828
(Colfax and Chambers)
303-341-9370

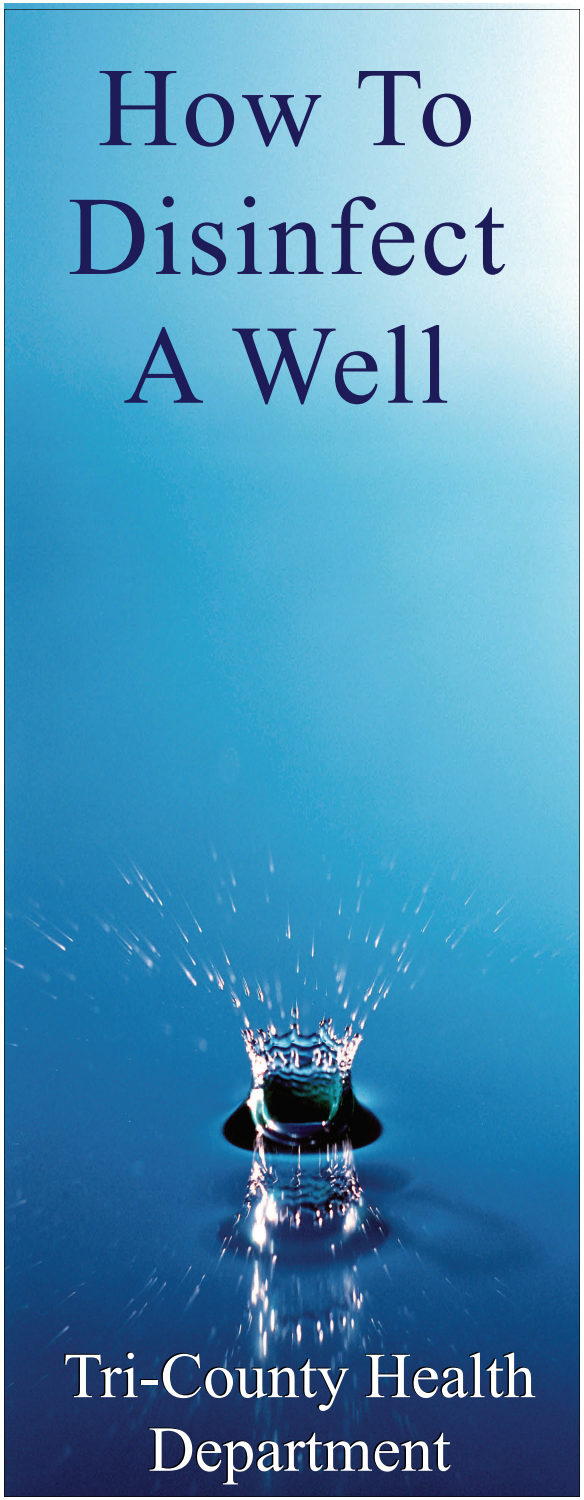
Castle Rock Office
4400 Castleton Court
Castle Rock, CO 80109
(North of the Justice Center)
303-663-7650

Commerce City Office
4201 E. 72nd Ave. Suite D
Commerce City, CO 80022
Adams County Service Center Building
(72nd and Colorado Boulevard)
303-288-6816

www.tchd.org

S-354

How To Disinfect A Well



Tri-County Health Department

Bacteria in a well can cause illness. Sources of bacteria generally include stormwater, snowmelt and iron-eating bacteria.

If a well tests positive for bacteria, the following steps must be taken to properly disinfect the well and piping system.

Materials you will need:

- One gallon of unscented household bleach
- Rubber gloves
- Eye protection
- Tools to remove wellhead cover

Wellhead with cover in place

Step 1

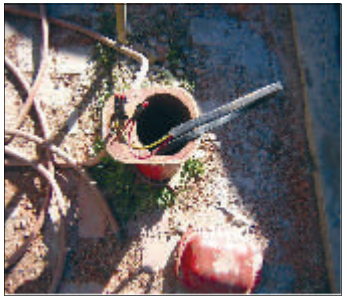
Is the water muddy or cloudy?

- If no, then proceed to Step 2.
- If yes, then run the water from an outside hose until the water is clear and free from dirt.

Step 2

- Remove the cover from well head.

Safety tip: Check pressure tank manual for any precautions related to chlorine use, and always use caution when working around electrical parts.



Wellhead with cover removed

Step 3

Pour the gallon of bleach into the well casing. Use a funnel if necessary. Rinse the well casing with water for about 5 minutes to remove any residual chlorine.

Wells with depths greater than 250 feet or wells that have never been chlorinated may need more than one gallon of bleach to completely disinfect the well.

Call Tri-County Health Department with any questions about the proper amount of chlorine to use or if disinfection was ineffective.

Step 4

Chlorinate the entire system:

- Open all water faucets throughout the house (sinks, tubs, showers, etc.)
- Flush all the toilets.
- Connect a hose to an outside faucet and wash down the well casing and all the parts of the well equipment which are exposed to the elements.
- Continue flushing the system until a chlorine odor is detected at all locations, then turn off the faucets.
- Hot water heaters can be chlorinated by allowing the hot water to run until chlorine odor is detected.

Step 5

Allow chlorine to remain in the well, storage tank and plumbing system for a minimum of 12 hours. The ideal time is 36-48 hours.

A well that cannot go unused for 36-48 hours should have a series of two to four 12- to 24-hour chlorination procedures.

Step 6

After each chlorination procedure:

- Turn on the water at the outside faucet and run the water until no chlorine odor is detected.
- Then, turn on all inside faucets and run the water until no chlorine odor is detected.

Residents on an individual sewage disposal system should use an outside faucet to remove most of the chlorinated water in order to avoid flooding their septic tank.