

DIVISION OF MILK CONTROL

DISINFECTION OF FARM WATER SUPPLIES

The disinfection of wells may be adequately accomplished by using either liquid household bleach or calcium hypochlorite, a dry chemical in powder form or tablets. The powder or tablets can be obtained from swimming pool equipment outlets, hardware stores, or chemical supply houses. The amount of disinfectant required depends on the volume of water to be disinfected. The attached table shows the amount of calcium hypochlorite powder (A) or household bleach (B) required for different size wells with varying depths of standing water.

DISINFECTING PROCEDURE

1. Remove the cover or the sanitary seal from the well and determine the number of standing feet of water in the well.
2. Determine the quantity of calcium hypochlorite or household bleach needed from the table.
3. When the powder is used, first mix with water in a clean plastic or other non-metallic bucket or container.
4. Slowly pour the required amount of chlorine solution into the well.
5. Start the pump, and with a garden hose connected to a faucet near the pressure tank, recirculate the water back down into the well. Do this for about 15 minutes until the chlorine and water are thoroughly mixed.
6. Water is then drawn at each outlet in the distribution system until a strong odor of chlorine is present at each outlet.
7. Keep this water in the system for at least 6 hours, or preferably overnight, and then flush it out of the system. Pump the water to waste until the odor of chlorine disappears. (This should be done through an outlet where the waste will not enter a septic system).

CAUTION SHOULD BE USED TO PREVENT LIVESTOCK OR PEOPLE FROM CONSUMING WATER HIGH IN CHLORINE CONTENT.

DISINFECTION OF SPRINGS

1. Remove any excess organic material and silt from the spring box or reservoir.
2. Add about one cup of household bleach per 10 gallons of water, and scrub the walls of the spring box or reservoir with a stiff bristle brush.
3. Add same amount of bleach again, and disinfect the distribution system as indicated for wells.
4. Because of the difficulty in detaining the chlorine solution in the reservoir for the desired contact time, the addition of calcium hypochlorite tablets (which take several hours to dissolve) to the spring box is recommended.

Quantities of calcium hypochlorite (A) or household bleach (B) required for water well disinfection.

Well Diameter (IN.)

Depth of water in well (FT.)		Drilled Well			Dug Well		
		4	6	8	36	42	48
5	A B				7 oz. 3 Q	9 oz. 4 Q	12 oz. 5 Q
10	A B				13 oz. 6 Q	1½ lb 8 Q	1½ lb. 2½ G
15	A B				1½ lb. 2 G	1½ lb 3 G	2 lb. 4 G
20	A B	1 T L C	3 T 1 C	4 T 2 C			
40	A B	2 T 1 C	6 T 2 C	8 T 1 Q			
60	A B	3 T 2 C	8 T 4 C	4 oz. 2 Q			
80	A B	4 T 2 C	9 T 1 Q	5 oz. 2 Q			
100	A B	5 T 3 C	4 oz. 1½ Q	7 oz. 2½ Q			
150	A B	8 T 4 C	6 oz. 2½ Q	10 oz. 4 Q			

A=70% Calcium Hypochlorite

B=5.25% Liquid Household Bleach

T=Tablespoonfuls (One Tbs. weighs about ½ ounce)

C=Cup (8 oz.)

Q=Quart

G=Gallon