

FLOODWATCH TIPS

Disinfection of a Well After Flooding

Please Note:

This disinfection procedure involves the use of high concentrations of chlorine that could potentially damage some treatment devices. If you have a treatment device on your water supply, you may wish to consult with the manufacturer's recommendations or a qualified professional before carrying out this procedure.

If you do not feel comfortable carrying out the disinfection procedure yourself, please contact a qualified plumber or pump installer.

STEPS FOR DISINFECTING YOUR WELL

1. Run the water from an outside hose or spigot until the water becomes clear or free of sediments.
2. Some wells have a sanitary seal with either an air vent or a plug that can be removed for the addition of bleach. (CAUTION: Do not remove any of the bolts in the top of a well seal). Pour unscented household bleach (5-6% chlorine) directly into the well. The chart provided on this information sheet outlines the amount of chlorine to add based on the diameter of the well or pipe and the depth of the water in the well or pipe.
3. After the bleach is added, run the water from an outside hose into the well casing until you smell the chlorine coming from the hose.
4. Turn on each cold water tap (including outside house bibs) allowing the water to run until a chlorine smell is detected from each faucet, then turn off each tap.
5. Leave the chlorinated water in the system from 12 to 24 hours. Do not drink, cook, bathe or wash with the water at this time. This water contains high concentrations of chlorine.
6. Once the time has elapsed, drain out the water until the chlorine odour disappears. Do not drain the water into a stream, ditch or storm drain which connects with any fish-bearing streams.

SAMPLING

Before taking a water sample for bacteriological testing, please ensure the following have been completed:

- All necessary repairs to the well.
- The well has been flushed of any flood water.
- The well and attached plumbing fixtures have been properly disinfected.
- After thorough flushing, there should be no chlorine smell in the water.

"It is recommended that you wait a few days after disinfection to test for bacteria"

If flooding was extensive and the groundwater was heavily contaminated, you may consider retesting your well again after a few weeks, as your well may be susceptible to recontamination.

Diameter of Well, or Pipe		Amount of Bleach (5-6% Chlorine) to use per Depth of Water in Well or Pipe	
Inches	Centimetres	Per 10 feet	Per 3 metres
2	5	1 tsp	5 mL
4	10	4 tsp	20 mL
6	15	10 tsp	50 mL
8	20	7 tbsp	100 mL
10	25	1/2 cup + 2 tbsp	150 mL
12	30	3/4 cup + 1 tbsp	200 mL
24	60	3 1/2 cups	800 mL
36	90	2 quarts	2.3 L
48	120	3 quarts	3.4 L
60	150	5 quarts	5.7 L
72	180	7 quarts	8.0 L
96	240	3 gallons	13.6 L

Note: 1 cup = 16 tbsp = 48 tsp

If you have any additional questions, please contact Fraser Health at 1-866-749-7900.