

CHLORINATING YOUR WELL

- 1) Bypass water softener and/or any other water treatment equipment. Remove filters from any sediment or carbon cartridges. Shut off water to any drinking water system (such as a Reverse Osmosis) including water to the refrigerator. Shut off the water to the furnace humidifier. Take screens and shower heads off so they don't get plugged. Disconnect washer hoses. There is usually a screen on the connection at the machine.
- 2) Turn Power off to your well pump. Turn off the power or gas to the water heater. Remove cap from well casing, typically with an allen wrench, pull wires out of the way. Determine the diameter of the casing and depth of water in the well. See chart on well chlorination tablet bottle for number of tablets needed.
- 3) Dissolve ½ the number of tablets in a few gallons of warm to hot water using a clean plastic container. This will take about an hour. Do this outside, stirring occasionally and try to avoid the fumes.
- 4) Determine that there is an unobstructed path to the water by dropping one tablet and listening to hear it hit the water. Drop the remaining tablets into the well. Use a plastic tube if necessary to get past an obstruction such as a pit less adaptor. These tablets will sink to the bottom and sanitize the lower portion of the well
- 5) Pour the dissolved tablets into the well and place the garden hose about 3 feet down well casing. Turn power back on to the pump, cover well head with plastic pail, run water for one hour.
- 6) Starting in the basement, open each water outlet and flush each toilet in the distributions system until a strong chlorine odor is noted. This assures that all the water and all the pipes in the system are chlorinated.
- 7) Allow water to stand unused for a minimum of 6 hours to a maximum of 48 hours. This gives the chlorine contact time to work its way through the bacterial slime and do its job. Toilets can be used but no other water should be.
- 8) Run garden hose outside or in drain (JUST NOT INTO SEPTIC FIELD) until water is clear and chlorine odor is gone. This should take 1-6 hours. If chlorine odor dissipates too quickly, it is an indication that the well needs to be shocked again as the chlorine was used up fighting the bacteria and oxidizing iron and very little residual remained. Run water down the well casing to rinse sides of well.
- 9) Flush all cold lines until they run clear and chlorine free. Place softener back in service. Make sure power off to the water heater. Hook up a hose to drain valve of water heater and flush for a few minutes. Shut off inlet water supply and allow to drain down. Open a hot faucet to speed this process. When drained, close the faucet and turn inlet water on. Allow water to flush through heater until clear and chlorine free. Close heater drain valve and allow to refill. Turn power back on after it is full. Run all hot faucets until clear and chlorine free.
- 10) Place new filters in cartridges, put screens and shower heads back on, turn on everything turned off in step one. Cleans resin in softener. Run washing machine through a wash cycle (warm/cold) with no clothes and if there is a dishwasher do the same.
- 11) NOTE: In some cases where the well has not been chlorinated regularly, some debris may become lodged in or cause damage to pump or other equipment. Chlorine may break iron deposits loose as well as slime and organic material which may make the water run colored. The material may plug the pump screens. Do not continue to run pump if water doesn't flow. Sometimes the slime will drop off after pump is off for a while and you can retry. Sometimes it will still be plugged. If this happens shut off pump and call a well and pump company. I usually watch the flow coming out of the hose in the beginning and at the end, if I notice it slowing down I shut off the pump right away. We shall not be liable for any damage to neither property nor injury to person as a result of this procedure, which is performed solely at the discretion of and risk to the party performing the procedure.
- 12) For Quality Water Treatment Equipment or Service I suggest calling Water Doctors in Waukesha.