

## Disinfecting a Domestic Water Well

### Private Well Disinfection Guidelines

- Pour approximately 1/3 gallon of unscented household bleach into the well for every 200 feet of the well's water depth. This can be accomplished either through the well vent or by un-screwing the access plug.
- Turn on a nearby hose and run the water until you smell bleach. Now run this chlorinated water back down into the well to help clean the interior parts that are above the water line.
- Turn on all outside cold water faucets until you smell bleach from each faucet then shut off all faucets. Turn on all inside cold water faucets until you smell bleach then shut off faucet.
- Wait 24 hours before turning the faucets back on. Do not use water during this period for any purpose because it contains high amounts of bleach.
- Following the waiting period, turn on an outdoor spigot with a hose attached and run the water to a safe area. Avoid areas with streams, creeks, ponds, plants, septic tanks and leach fields. Run the water until there is no longer an odor of bleach. Now turn on and run all interior faucets until there is no longer an odor of bleach.
- It is important that outside spigots are used first when flushing chlorinated water into and out of the system. This will limit the amount of chlorinated water being introduced into the septic system,
- The well should now be disinfected. Wait at least 24 hours after disinfection to collect a sample for testing by a certified laboratory.

## **Water Sample Collection Guidelines**

### **OBTAIN A SAMPLE COLLECTION KIT**

Obtain a sample collection bottle and chlorine test strip/kit from a certified laboratory. Do not open the collection bottle until it is time to collect the sample.

### **CHOOSE A SAMPLE SITE**

Locate an acceptable sample site. Avoid faucets with aerators or strainers and spigots with hoses attached.

### **CHECK FOR CHLORINE BLEACH**

In order to get an accurate sample result, there must be no chlorine bleach in the water. Use a chlorine test strip or kit to determine if there is still bleach in the water. If chlorine is present continue flushing the water until a test strip or kit indicates that there is no longer any chlorine.

### **PREPARING THE SAMPLE TAP**

Run the tap with cold water for approximately three minutes. Reduce the stream to a gentle flow.

### **PREPARING THE STERILE COLLECTION BOTTLE**

With clean hands, open the bottle taking care not to touch the edges or insides of the bottle or lid. With the lid in one hand, and the bottle in the other, fill the bottle just above the fill mark. Do not allow the spigot to touch the bottle. Also avoid splashing or overfilling. Promptly secure the lid to the bottle. Place the bottle in a ziplock bag.

### **SAMPLE DELIVERY TO THE LABORATORY**

Deliver the sample to a certified laboratory as soon as possible but within 30 hours. If you cannot deliver within one hour, keep the sample in a refrigerator or on ice and do not expose to direct sunlight.

**Please contact this office if you have any questions**

**Placer County Environmental Health**

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