

To shock chlorinate a well:

Most water treatment equipment, such as water softeners, iron filters and sand filters, should be by-passed or disconnected during this procedure, but should also be chlorinated according to manufacturer's instructions. Check the manufacturer's literature before chlorinating treatment equipment to prevent damage from strong chlorine solutions. Do not chlorinate carbon or charcoal filters; doing so will use up their capacity.

Be careful when handling concentrated chlorine solutions. Wear rubber gloves, goggles and a protective apron. If chlorine accidentally gets on your skin, flush immediately with clean water.

Never mix chlorine solutions with other cleaning agents or ammonia, because toxic gases are formed.

Do not use "fresh scent" bleach or other special laundry products to disinfect wells. Use the plain and usually least expensive laundry bleach.

- 1. Pour one gallon of chlorine bleach or powdered chlorine dissolved in a small amount of water directly into the well. (Figure 1.)**

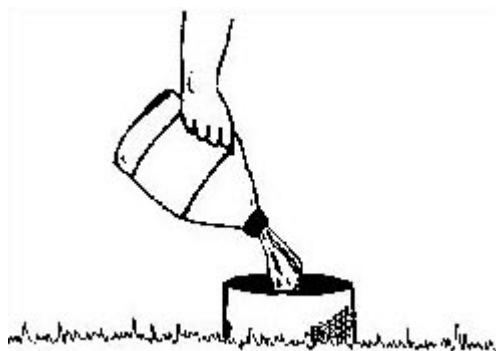


Figure 1.

- 2. Connect a garden hose to a nearby faucet and wash down the inside of the well. (Figure 2.)**

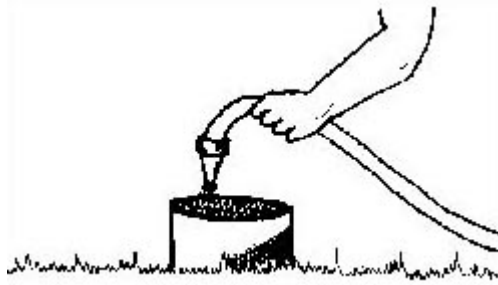


Figure 2.

3. Open each faucet one by one and let the water run until a strong odor of chlorine is detected. If a strong odor is not detected, add more chlorine to the well.

Pour another gallon of chlorine bleach or powdered chlorine dissolved in a small amount of water directly into the well. This replaces the amount of chlorine drawn into the plumbing system. (Figure 3.)

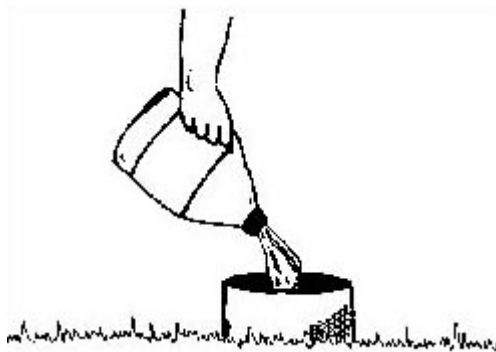


Figure 3.

4. Let the water stand in the water system for at least 12 to 24 hours.
5. Flush the system of remaining chlorine. Start by turning on outside faucets and letting them run until the chlorine smell dissipates. Let the water run on the ground to reduce the load on your septic system. Finally, run the indoor faucets until the system is completely flushed.

Retest your water supply for bacteria after waiting 1 to 2 weeks. If shock chlorination does not eliminate a bacteria problem, continuous disinfection may be necessary.

For more information on disinfection of water systems, call or visit your county health department office.