

## CHLORINATION PROCESS TO KILL BACTERIA

The following procedure may be used to provide a one-time shock chlorination of wells which have tested positive for coliform bacteria. This procedure should be done in the evening. The addition of bleach will affect the taste and smell of the water.

1. Turn off the electricity to the pump.
2. Remove the well cap or unscrew the access port on the well. Clark County Public Health recommends contacting a water professional for this procedure.
3. Refer to the chart for the amount of bleach to add to the well. The amount of bleach is dependent on the size of the well casing and well depth.
4. Mix the bleach with water before pouring into the well.
5. Pour bleach-water mixture into the well using a funnel.
6. The pump should be left off for 2 to 3 hours to allow the bleach a sufficient contact time to disinfect the well.
7. Turn on electricity to the pump. Turn on all inside faucets in all the homes using this water system, until bleach odor is apparent. Turn off the faucets and let sit overnight. This will bring the bleach through the lines to disinfect them.
8. In the morning, or after waiting 8 hours, run the outside faucets to begin to flush out the chlorine. Continue flushing until chlorine smell is no longer detectable.
9. If two repeat samples are required, they should be taken 1) at the wellhead and 2) at the original sample site.
10. Repeat samples should not be taken until all chlorine is out of the system (no taste or odor). It may take 2 to 3 days for the chlorine to be completely flushed from

### CLARK COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
8:00 AM — 4:00 PM

Wednesday  
9:00 AM — 4:00 PM

Phone number: 360-397-8428



#### For other formats

Clark County ADA Office, Voice (360) 397-2000  
Relay (800) 833-6384, E-mail ADA@clark.wa.gov

#### For further information:

Visit our Drinking Water Program Website at:  
<https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/drinking-water-and-wells>

E-mail general queries to:  
[eph@clark.wa.gov](mailto:eph@clark.wa.gov)



#### CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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# Steps to “Shock Chlorinate” Your Water System



**CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**



## Disinfecting Your Water System

Regular testing of water wells for coliform bacteria is an important part of ensuring a safe water supply and is vital to the operation and maintenance of a Group B water system. Test results from a certified lab should indicate “satisfactory.” However, an “unsatisfactory” result may be present in the water supply.

The information contained in this brochure is provided to assist in the well disinfection process. Following these simple steps should kill the bacteria in the well. If re-testing indicates that bacteria are still present in the water system, this may indicate that a more thorough assessment of the water system is needed. Clark County Public Health can assist with this process. Please contact us at the phone number listed on the back of this brochure.

**Type of bleach to use:** The suggested amount of bleach to use in the table shown to the right is based on the use of standard household bleach which typically has a chlorine concentration of 5.25%. Avoid using “ultra” or concentrated bleach products which will have a much higher chlorine concentration and will result in over chlorination. Bleach products with additives or perfumes should not be used.



Well Depth	6-Inch Well Casing	8-Inch Well Casing	10-Inch Well Casing	12-Inch Well Casing
20	2 cups	3 cups	1 quart	1 quart
30	2 cups	3 cups	1 ½ quarts	2 quarts
40	3 cups	1 quart	2 quarts	2 ½ quarts
50	3 cups	1 ½ quarts	2 ½ quarts	3 quarts
60	4 cups	2 quarts	3 quarts	4 quarts
80	1 quart	2 quarts	3 ½ quarts	5 quarts
100	1 ½ quarts	2 ½ quarts	4 quarts	1 ½ gallons
125	2 quarts	3 quarts	5 quarts	2 gallons
150	2 ½ quarts	4 quarts	1 ½ gallons	2 ½ gallons
200	3 quarts	5 quarts	2 gallons	3 gallons
250	3 ½ quarts	1 ½ gallons	2 ½ gallons	3 ½ gallons
300	4 quarts	2 gallons	3 gallons	4 gallons
350	4 ½ quarts	2 ½ gallons	3 ½ gallons	4 ½ gallons

**If you have a hand dug well, sand point or spring, please notify Clark County Public Health for other procedures to disinfect your source.**