

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

DISINFECTION OF WELLS AND SPRINGS

Please note: Wells that were covered by flood waters should be run to waste until the water runs clear prior to disinfection. For some wells this may take a few minutes for others this may take several minutes or longer.

1. Mix two quarts of chlorine bleach, such as Clorox\* in ten gallons of water.
2. Pour the solution into the well or spring while it is being pumped. Keep pumping until chlorine odor appears at all taps. Then close the taps and stop the pump. It will be necessary to open the valve or plug in the top of the pressure tank, if provided, in order to release the air and permit the strong chlorine solution to come into contact with the entire inside of the tank. Air must be readmitted and the tank opening closed when pumping is again started.
3. Mix two more quarts of bleach in ten gallons of water and pour this chlorine solution into the well or spring.
4. Allow the well or spring to stand idle for at least six hours (preferably twelve to twenty-four hours). Then pump it to waste away from grass and shrubbery through the storage tank and taps until the chlorine odor disappears.

\*Chlorox and other bleaches containing **5 ¼% available chlorine** can be purchased in most drug stores, grocery stores and supermarkets.

If further information is needed, please call the Erie County Health Department at (716) 858-6089.