



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CDC to Use WSC's Well Disinfection Information

Washington, DC (March 30, 2009) – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plans to use Water Systems Council's (WSC) wellcare information sheet on well disinfection as the basis for its updated guidelines on the topic.

wellcare information sheets are intended to educate well owners, home buyers, realtors, mortgage companies and others on topics such as well maintenance, well water testing and treatment, water quality, well components and potential groundwater contaminants.

wellcare information sheets and the Wellcare Hotline are both components of WSC's wellcare program that offers important information, technical support, training and educational activities to ensure safe drinking water for the 42 million Americans who depend on wells for their drinking water supply.

WSC is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the wider use of wells as modern and affordable safe drinking water systems and to protecting ground water resources nationwide.

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wellcare information for you about Disinfecting Your Well

Chlorination disinfects your well by destroying unhealthy bacteria and microorganisms and removing dissolved iron, manganese and hydrogen sulfide. It can be managed easily at home with common household bleach.
Shock chlorination uses concentrations of chlorine that are 100 to 400 times the amount found in municipal water supplies. The highly chlorinated water is held in the pipes of your well system before it is flushed out and the system is ready again for use.
When to Chlorinate Your Well
You should test for bacteria each year, usually in the spring, or if there is any change in the taste, color or odor of your drinking water. Any positive test result requires disinfection.
But other well maintenance activities can also threaten your water supply. Chlorinate your well when:
• the well is new. Chlorinate before using.
• the well has been repaired, reconstructed, or new pumps or pipes have been added to the water system.
• the well has been flooded or exposed to bacterial contamination in another manner, such as a crack in the well cap.
How to Use Shock Chlorination to Disinfect Your Well
Chlorine granules, tablets and liquid chlorine in the form of household bleach can all be used to disinfect your well. Don't use stabilized swimming pool chlorine products or non-chlorinated "pool shock" products, as they are not effective enough to clean your drinking water.
Follow directions on the package of granules and tablets. With household bleach, try to use a new bottle of bleach, as it can lose potency over time. Also, don't use perfumed bleach, as it is not healthy to ingest the scented ingredients.
Step 1 Determine the well diameter. This information should appear on the well log. Measure how much water is standing in the borehole of the well.
Step 2 Prepare a solution using unscented liquid household bleach or chlorine granules. Chlorine pellets are not recommended because they do not dissolve quickly enough.
The tables included in this information sheet will help you to calculate how much liquid chlorine bleach you will need, based on the depth of your well. Table 1 applies to drilled wells, and table 2 applies to dug/bored wells. Other
wellcare information on Disinfecting Your Well January 2007