

# Well Disinfection

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides an in-depth guide to well disinfection. The entire guide can be viewed here:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/dg/dg0003.pdf>



## Simplified Well Disinfection Steps

1. Mix 2 quarts bleach in 10 gallons of water; pour into well.
2. Connect a garden hose to a nearby faucet and wash down the inside of the well.
3. Open each faucet and let the water run until a strong chlorine odor is detected, then turn it off and go to the next one. Don't forget outdoor faucets and hydrants. Drain the water heater and let it refill with chlorinated water. If a strong odor is not detected at all outlets, add more chlorine to the well. (if you have and impaired sense of smell, use chlorine test strips sold with swimming pool supplies to detect chlorine at each outlet.)
4. Flush the toilets.
5. Mix an additional 2 quarts bleach in 10 gallons of water. Pour it into the well without pumping.
6. Allow chlorinated water to stand in the well and pipes for at least 8 hours (preferably 12 to 24 hours).
7. Run water from outdoor faucets to waste (away from desirable vegetation) until the chlorine odor is slight or not detected at each faucet. Then run indoor faucets until there is no chlorine odor. Minimize the amount of chlorinated water flowing into a septic tank.

Some chlorine may persist in the system for 7-10 days. Water with a slight chlorine smell should be usable for most purposes. If the odor or taste is objectionable, let the water run until the chlorine dissipates.

Approximately 2 weeks after flushing the system, sample the water and have it tested for biological contamination. Repeat the test in 2 to 3 months to be sure the system has not been recontaminated.

If you need further assistance, please contact the Monroe County Health Department at 608-269-8666.