

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION

1. Did you follow the sampling instructions?

(If the faucet used was a swing, swivel or leaking faucet (example: kitchen tap), resample from another faucet, (example: pressure tank faucet or bathroom faucet).

2. If you do not have a vermin-proof cap or seal, or a loose cap, insects may have gotten into your well.
3. The casing is not properly sealed into the rock formation.
4. The casing is not terminated 12 inches above the ground.
5. The well terminates in a nonconforming pit, which may be subject to flooding or seepage of groundwater.
6. New wells often show contamination because the drill hole becomes contaminated through dirty tools, pipe and drilling water.
7. Any recent work on the plumbing system will contaminate your plumbing system.

If any of these reasons apply, contact a well driller or pump installer to correct the structural defect.

If none of these reasons apply, follow the disinfection instructions or contact a well driller or pump installer for disinfection.

DISINFECTION OF THE WELL AND WATER SYSTEM

Once an inspection has determined that your water system is free from any sources of apparent contamination, you should disinfect the well. Although there are many ways to properly disinfect a well, the following technique has proven effective in most cases.

1. Mix one gallon of household laundry bleach with 100 gallons of water. If your well is more than 150 feet deep, mix two gallons of bleach with 200 gallons of water. If you do not have a container for mixing the solution all at once, you can mix 25 gallons at a time in 4 clean plastic garbage containers and pour the chlorinated water in the well in rapid succession.
2. Remove the cap from the well and pour the entire bleach and water solution into the well.
3. Rinse down the sides of the well casing with the garden hose for 5 to 10 minutes. The rinse water should be from a hose on the water system being disinfected. This procedure circulates the bleach through the water system to insure better disinfection.
4. If you wish to disinfect your plumbing system, turn all cold water taps until you smell the bleach. Then turn the taps off.
5. Let the bleach remain in the system for at least eight hours (preferably 24 hours).
6. Pump all the bleach out of the water system by running the water through a garden hose to an area where the bleach will not damage lawns, shrubs, or septic systems. Pump until you no longer smell the bleach.
7. Two or three days after disinfection, a sample from the well should be submitted for bacteriological analysis. One month after the disinfection, a sample from the well should be submitted for bacteriological analysis to make sure the well is maintaining its safe quality.