



Well Disinfection

The purpose of disinfection is to destroy organisms that can be harmful to your health. The type and extent of disinfection used is determined by the source and condition of the water to be treated. Both **CHLORINE RESIDUAL** and **CONTACT TIME** are very important in effectively killing pathogens.

2004

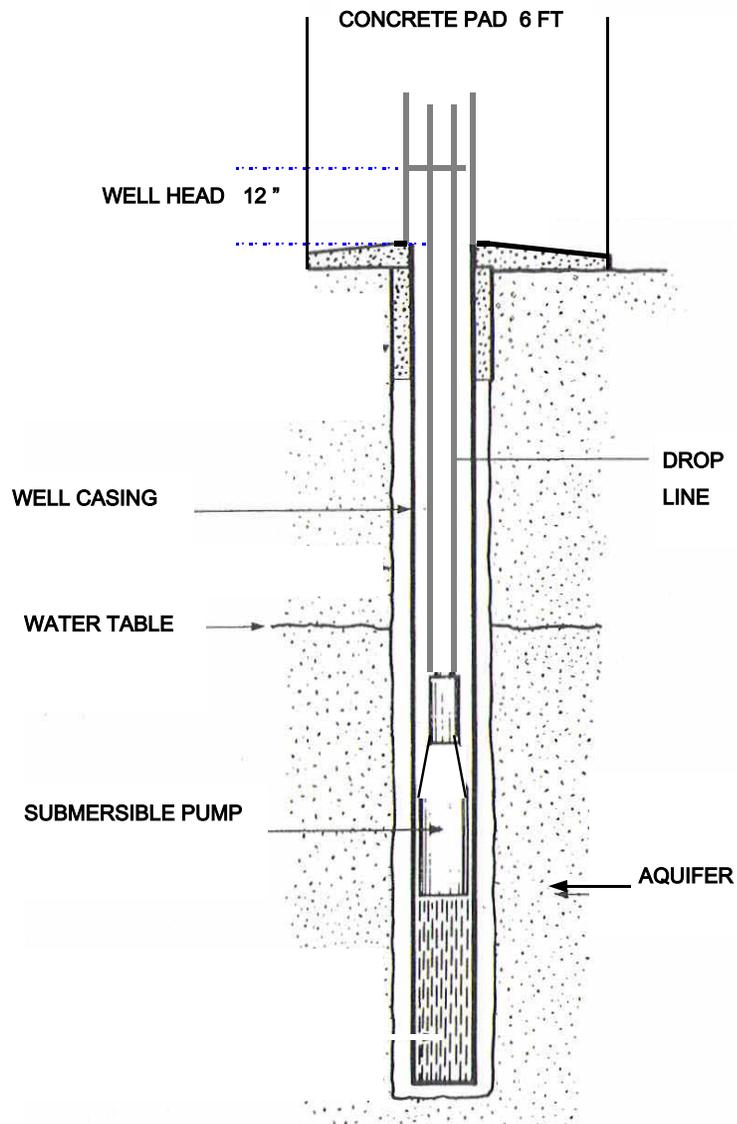
Procedures for disinfecting your well (see diagram on reverse side)

To properly disinfect wells follow these procedures:

1. Pump well water to the ground surface until water is relatively clear.
2. Stop pump.
3. Add household chlorine bleach directly into the well casing (see Table 1). **Do not use scented bleach or any swimming pool products containing stabilized chlorine.**
4. Let the well water sit for 30 minutes to allow the chlorine to settle in the well water, then flush well by starting and stopping the pump several times in order to wash down the inside of the casing and the drop line with chlorinated water.
5. Open the taps at the farthest ends of the water system until a chlorine odor is detected, then close taps.
6. Let the chlorinated water stand in the well, the storage tank, and any piping in the house for at least 24 hours.
7. Pump well water to the ground surface until there is no chlorine odor in the water being drained.
8. The water should then be tested for bacteria to ensure that it is safe for drinking.

Table 1	
Household Bleach Required to Disinfect 100 Feet of Pipe @ 50 parts per million	
Diameter of Pipe or Casing (in inches)	Chlorine Compound
	5 % Available Chlorine (Household Bleach)
2	2 Ounces
4	9 Ounces
6	20 Ounces
8	2 1/8 Pints

Diagram 1: Well Head



For further information, please contact:

**Bernalillo County
Office of Environmental Health
111 Union Square SE, Suite 300
Albuquerque, New Mexico
(505) 314-0310
www.bernco.gov**

