

**Will County Health Department**  
**501 Ella Ave.**  
**Joliet, IL 60433**  
**Environmental Health Office (815) 727-8490**  
**Environmental Health Laboratory (815) 727-8517**

**Disinfection of Private Water Wells:**

Enclosed is a copy of the bacteriological analysis recently conducted on a water sample collected from your well. The analysis indicates that your well water is unsatisfactory for drinking or culinary purposes. Based on this analysis, the water from your well should not be used for drinking, washing of food, brushing of teeth or bathing of babies until it has been proven to be of satisfactory bacteriological quality.

The following procedure can be extremely helpful in the disinfection of your well. This procedure should also be used for the disinfection of new wells or following the repair of existing wells.

1. Check the well seal and vent to be certain of good, tight construction. Replace any worn or damaged parts.
2. Remove the well seal. Mix one gallon of ordinary household chlorine bleach with three gallons of clean water in a clean bucket. Pour this solution directly into the well casing, making sure that the inside of the casing pipe is rinsed with the bleach solution. With the use of a clean garden hose, re-circulate the chlorinated water back into the well casing for 10-15 minutes. This process will disinfect the well. Replace the well seal and be sure the connection is water-tight.
3. If you have a water softener, put the softener on bypass during this procedure.
4. Turn on each water faucet in your home and let them run until you can smell the chlorine bleach at each tap.
5. Turn off the taps and allow the solution to stand in the water lines overnight.
6. FOR PUBLIC SEWERS: On the following morning, let each water tap in the house run until the odor of the chlorine bleach has disappeared
7. FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS: Connect a garden hose to an outside tap and run the water into the roadside ditch until the odor of the bleach has disappeared. Next, open each tap in the house and let the water run until the odor of the bleach has disappeared.
8. Wait 3-5 days before taking a new sample. The laboratory will test the sample for chlorine. If there is any chlorine present in the sample, the laboratory will not run the sample and the sample will be declared invalid. Mark the new sample as a Repeat on the requisition form.

All water from private wells should be analyzed for bacteria at least once every year. Sample bottles for this purpose are available at the Will County Health Department Environmental Health Lab and the branch offices from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If further information is desired, please do not hesitate to call upon this department. For your convenience, members of the Environmental Health staff are available for consultation between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.