



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability

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## **DISINFECTION OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY WELLS CONTAMINATED BY FLOOD WATERS**

Wells that have been flooded or otherwise contaminated by installation, construction or repair work must be thoroughly disinfected before use.

1. Inspect the water supply installation to determine and correct any damage or faults which would provide a source of contamination to the well by way of insects, surface drainage, dust or insects.
2. Disconnect well from storage and distribution system. Pump well to waste until water is relatively free of turbidity. Stop pump - reconnect to systems.
3. Add a chlorine solution consisting of 1 gallon of 6% available chlorine, household bleach (**UNSCENTED**) in 10 gallons of water, to well between well casing and pump drop pipe.
4. Start the pump and open all faucets on the system. Pump until chlorine odor is detected at the faucets, close faucets and stop the pump. Allow the chlorine solution to remain in the well, storage and distribution system at least overnight or preferably 24 hours.
5. Pump well to waste until odor and taste of chlorine has disappeared. Excessive amounts of contamination in the well or water supply system may require repeating the process.

Two days after disinfection collect a sample of water for bacteriological analysis, using only a sterile container furnished by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, or the Local Public Health Agency.