Individual residential water wells normally provide safe drinking water. Unfortunately, a well may become contaminated with harmful bacteria (fecal coliform). The harmful contaminants can enter a well site through flooding, a crack in the well casing, or a broken or missing sanitary seal or well cap.

One way to clear the problem of harmful bacteria is disinfection. This process uses a gallon of regular household bleach. Disinfection should clear the problem. If the water remains contaminated with bacteria, you may need to contact your Regional Environmental Quality Control Office for further assistance.

CR-003247 10/15

Environmental Quality Control Regional Offices

Upstate EQC

Upstate EQC Anderson
(864) 260-5585
220 McGee Rd.
Anderson, SC 29621
(Anderson, Oconee)

Upstate EQC Greenville
(864) 372-3273
200 University Rdg.
Greenville, SC 29601
(Greenville, Pickens)

Upstate EQC Greenwood
(864) 227-5915
1736 South Main St.
Greenwood, SC 29646
(Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick)

Upstate EQC Spartanburg
(864) 596-3327
151 E. Wood St.
Spartanburg , SC 29303
(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)

Upstate EQC Walhalla
(864) 638-4185
415 South Pine St.
Walhalla, SC 29691

Midlands EQC

Midlands EQC Aiken
(803) 642-1637
206 Beaufort St., NE
Aiken, SC 29801
(Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield, Saluda)

Midlands EQC Columbia
(803) 896-0620
State Park Health Center
8500 Farrow Rd. Bldg 12
Columbia, SC 29203
Mail Address: P.O. Box 156,
State Park, SC 29147
(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)

Midlands EQC Lancaster
(803) 285-7461
2475 DHEC Rd.
Lancaster, SC 29720
(Chester, Lancaster, York)

Midlands EQC Rock Hill
(803) 909-7379
1070 Heckle Blvd.
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Pee Dee EQC

Pee Dee EQC Florence
(843) 661-4825
Florence County Health Dept.
145 E. Cheves St.
Florence, SC 29506
(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro)

Pee Dee EQC Myrtle Beach
(843) 238-4378
927 Shine Ave.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)

Pee Dee EQC Sumter
(803) 778-6548
105 N. Magnolia St.
Sumter, SC 29150
(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)

Pee Dee EQC Conway
(843) 915-8801
Conway Health Dept.
1931 Industrial Park Rd.
Conway, SC 29526

Lowcountry EQC

Lowcountry EQC Beaufort
(843) 846-1030
104 Parker Dr.
Beaufort, SC 29906
(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)

Lowcountry EQC Charleston
(843) 953-0150
1362 McMillan Ave.,
Suite 300
Charleston, SC 29405
(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)

Lowcountry EQC Orangeburg
(803) 533-5490
1550 Carolina Ave.
Orangeburg, SC 29115
(Allendale, Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)

Residential Well Disinfection

D H E C

PROMOTE PROTECT PROSPER

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Materials Needed:

- One gallon of non-scented household liquid bleach;
- rubber gloves;
- eye protection;
- old clothes; and
- a funnel.

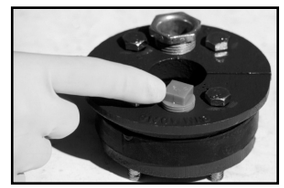
Before Disinfection:

Check the condition of your well. Make sure there is no exposed or damaged wiring. If you notice any damage call a professional before the disinfection process.

Steps In Disinfecting A Well:

1. If your water is muddy or cloudy, run the water from an outside spigot with a hose attached until the water becomes clear and free of sediments.

2. Determine what type of well you have and how to pour the bleach into the well. Some wells have a sanitary seal with either an air vent or a plug that can be removed (a). If it is a bored or dug well, the entire cover can be lifted off to provide a space for pouring the bleach into the well (b).



3. Take the gallon of bleach and funnel (if needed) and carefully pour the bleach down into the well casing.

4. After the bleach has been added, run water from an outside hose into the well casing until you smell chlorine coming from the hose. Then turn off the outside hose.

5. Turn on all cold water faucets, inside and outside of house, until the chlorine odor is detected in each faucet, then shut them all off. If you have a water treatment system, switch it to bypass before turning on the indoor faucets.

6. Wait six to 24 hours before turning the faucets back on. It is important not to drink, cook, bathe or wash with this water during the time period — it contains high amounts of chlorine.

7. Once the waiting period is up, turn on an outside spigot with hose attached and run the water into a safe area where it will not disturb plants, lakes, streams, or septic tanks. Run the water until there is no longer a chlorine odor. Turn the water off.

8. The system should now be disinfected and you can now use the water.

9. It is recommended to have your water tested for bacteria seven to 10 days after disinfection. You can pick up a water sample kit at your local S.C. DHEC office.