BENTON-FRANKLIN
HEALTH DISTRICT

WELL WATER DISINFECTION

To disinfect the typical well:

1. Purchase 1 gallon of liquid household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) available at any grocery or drug store.

2. Drain the water out of your pressure tank.

3. Add the gallon of bleach to a 5-gallon bucket of water and pour the mixture directly into the well via the access port or by removal of the sanitary seal.

4. Turn on the well pump and run water through a hose using a tap closest to the well until you smell chlorine. Then direct the hose nozzle back down into the top of the well to disinfect inside the well casing.

5. Work your way from the well, opening ALL taps in and outside the house one at a time until the chlorine can be smelled at all taps. This also includes the hot water tank, toilets, shower heads and clothes washer.

6. When the chlorine odor is noticeable at all taps, close each tap. This will stop the well pump. Try not to use the water system for 12 to 24 hours in order to allow the chlorine adequate time to disinfect the system.

7. After disinfection, pump the system out starting with the tap closest to the well on which you can attach a hose. Use a hose to direct the water to an area where vegetation is not growing (away from grass and shrubs). Also, keep the discharge out of the septic tank and drainfield area. Continue pumping until the chlorine cannot be smelled, then work your way from the well, running the water through EVERY tap until each tap is free from the smell of chlorine. ***Do not drink the water if you still smell chlorine.***

Benton-Franklin District Health Department
7102 W. Okanogan Place
Kennewick, WA 99336
Environmental Health 460.4205
Laboratory 460.4206

BENTON-FRANKLIN
HEALTH DISTRICT

WELL WATER DISINFECTION

To disinfect the typical well:

1. Purchase 1 gallon of liquid household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) available at any grocery or drug store.

2. Drain the water out of your pressure tank.

3. Add the gallon of bleach to a 5-gallon bucket of water and pour the mixture directly into the well via the access port or by removal of the sanitary seal.

4. Turn on the well pump and run water through a hose using a tap closest to the well until you smell chlorine. Then direct the hose nozzle back down into the top of the well to disinfect inside the well casing.

5. Work your way from the well, opening ALL taps in and outside the house one at a time until the chlorine can be smelled at all taps. This also includes the hot water tank, toilets, shower heads and clothes washer.

6. When the chlorine odor is noticeable at all taps, close each tap. This will stop the well pump. Try not to use the water system for 12 to 24 hours in order to allow the chlorine adequate time to disinfect the system.

7. After disinfection, pump the system out starting with the tap closest to the well on which you can attach a hose. Use a hose to direct the water to an area where vegetation is not growing (away from grass and shrubs). Also, keep the discharge out of the septic tank and drainfield area. Continue pumping until the chlorine cannot be smelled, then work your way from the well, running the water through EVERY tap until each tap is free from the smell of chlorine. ***Do not drink the water if you still smell chlorine***.

Benton-Franklin District Health Department
7102 W. Okanogan Place
Kennewick, WA 99336
Environmental Health 460.4205
Laboratory 460.4206

8. Three to five days after the disinfection, after all chlorine has been removed and cannot be smelled, a water sample may be collected for bacterial examination to determine whether all contamination has been removed.

If you do not pump your well out, the chlorine may persist for a week or longer.

Until a satisfactory water sample can be obtained, you should avoid drinking the water unless you follow the Emergency Drinking Water procedures below.

If repeated disinfection fails to correct the problem, then a permanent, mechanical chlorinator may need to be considered to provide continuous disinfection. Another possibility is that the inside surfaces of the well casing, pump, pipes, etc. may need to be cleaned. For the proper procedure for cleaning a well, contact a professional well driller.

Emergency Drinking Water

In the event of a drinking water emergency, appropriate action must be taken until the problem is corrected. One option is to buy bottled water. Another option is to render your drinking water **microbiologically** safe by vigorously boiling it for 3-5 minutes before consumption.

For more information and/or assistance, contact the Environmental Health Division at 460-4205 or the Health Department Laboratory at 460-4206.

Rev 7/08

8. Three to five days after the disinfection, after all chlorine has been removed and cannot be smelled, a water sample may be collected for bacterial examination to determine whether all contamination has been removed.

If you do not pump your well out, the chlorine may persist for a week or longer.

Until a satisfactory water sample can be obtained, you should avoid drinking the water unless you follow the Emergency Drinking Water procedures below.

If repeated disinfection fails to correct the problem, then a permanent, mechanical chlorinator may need to be considered to provide continuous disinfection. Another possibility is that the inside surfaces of the well casing, pump, pipes, etc. may need to be cleaned. For the proper procedure for cleaning a well, contact a professional well driller.

Emergency Drinking Water

In the event of a drinking water emergency, appropriate action must be taken until the problem is corrected. One option is to buy bottled water. Another option is to render your drinking water **microbiologically** safe by vigorously boiling it for 3-5 minutes before consumption.

For more information and/or assistance, contact the Environmental Health Division at 460-4205 or the Health Department Laboratory at 460-4206.

Rev 7/08