



Clermont County Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

How to Disinfect Your Cistern

If your water supply has been flooded, it is contaminated and unsafe to use. You will need to disinfect your water supply and request the Health District sample it before using the water. The following is the recommended procedure for disinfecting your water supply.

What To Use: Liquid chlorine laundry bleach. There are many brand names – look for the words “sodium hypochlorites” on the label to determine the percentage. It will be 5.25% or 3%.

You will need a 5 gallon batch of solution made up as follows:

- 5.25% sodium hypochlorites - 1 gallon bleach in 4 gallons of water
- 3.00% sodium hypochlorites - 2 gallons bleach in 3 gallons of water

This solution formula is based on 5,000 gallons of water – you will need to adjust accordingly.

Procedure to follow:

1. Stop the pump
2. Pour ½ of the batch into the well, cistern or reservoir. If possible, pour or siphon the solution through the air vent pipe as this will allow you to leave your well seal undisturbed.
3. Mix the solution into the water in the well, cistern or reservoir.
4. Start the pump. Open all taps and allow the water to run until each tap has distinct chlorine odor. Close the taps, stop the pump and add the remainder of the batch.
5. Allow the water to stand for 12 to 24 hours.
6. Start the pump, open all taps and allow the water to run until the odor of chlorine disappears.
7. Request the Health District collect a sample and approve your water before using.

To determine total gallons:

Multiply height x width x length = volume in cubic feet

Multiply volume x 7.48 = total gallons