



North Iowa Water Company
310 South 20th Street
Clear Lake, IA 50428

Water Well Chlorination

Prior to beginning this procedure it is important for you to understand what chlorination of your private water well is intended to accomplish. This procedure will destroy bacterial contamination in the well at the time of treatment. This process does not provide on-going protection against waterborne bacterial problems. In many cases this treatment is used when the water system is opened for repairs. There are also other situations where a periodic treatment provides for a well-maintained water system. You should **NOT** treat your well without first having your entire system inspected and tested by a professional.

CAUTION: *When working with chlorine it is important to be in a well-ventilated location and avoid contact with skin and clothing. All chlorine containers should be thoroughly cleaned and rinsed before disposal. Do not use chlorine containers for storage of other products and never mix chlorine with any other cleaning agent or chemical.*

Well chlorination requires several hours of attention so do not begin this process if your time does not allow completion of the entire process.

Begin by first bypassing your water softener. There is usually a switch, button, or by-pass valve on the water softener to accomplish this step. If you can't locate this by-pass, **STOP!! DO NOT RUN CHLORINE THROUGH THE SOFTENER SYSTEM.**

Next remove the well cap so that you have access to the inside of the well. This cap is bolted on the top of the well casing. Pour chlorine bleach down the well casing, 2 or 3 gallons is usually sufficient. Always buy good name-brand chlorine bleach without soap or flowery scent. Cheaper bleach is less effective. We can provide specific amounts of chlorine depending on your well but as a general rule of thumb refer to the chart below:

Using a garden hose, circulate the water in the well by running water back into the well. When you smell chlorinated water coming from the garden hose, you know the well has been adequately chlorinated. Be sure to run water down the sides of the casing to chlorinate the areas above the waterline.

Turn off the hose and then turn on each cold-water faucet in the house until you smell chlorinated water coming from them. The longer the chlorinated water sets in the water system the better for sterilizing the system. During this time, very minimal water should be used and do not attempt to do laundry during this time.

The next step is to run an outside garden hose until the water no longer smells of chlorine. It is best to run this water on an area where grass or plants will not come in contact and damaged with the chlorinated water.

In cases where a heavy chlorination has taken place it may take much longer to evacuate all the chlorine. It is necessary to keep running the hose until there is no more chlorine smell. This will not hurt your pump or system. When chlorine seems to have been flushed from the system, you may return your water softener to its regular settings and begin your normal water usage.

If you are not comfortable with this process please give us a call to schedule service.

(641) 357-3614 - Phone (800) 745-8614 - Toll Free