



Chlorinations 101

This summary explains how to get through a chlorination (hopefully) with your sanity intact. If you are reading this you have the unfortunate experience of discovering your well is contaminated and has to be chlorinated. The next step is to remove the chlorine from the well. This step is very, very tedious – so prepare yourself.

For the first 24 hours after the chlorination you will do nothing, including using your water. This time is required for the chemical to do its job. The chlorine in the water is much heavier than the concentration in pool water. The only purpose you may use this water for is flushing the toilet, **DO NOT wash hands, do laundry (even your whites) or take a shower.** It will irritate your skin and if ingested could result in severe health consequences.

When the first 24 hours are up, you may begin running and resting the well to remove the chlorine. To accomplish this, hook a garden hose to an outside hose bib or the well pressure tank which is usually located in the basement. To avoid flooding chlorine into your septic, do not try to run the chlorine out through your inside faucets until it is cleared from the outside hose.

The amount of time needed to run off the chlorine varies between wells. The most important thing to remember is that if the water stops running, immediately turn off the pump at the breaker. Severe damage to the pump can occur if the well runs out of water unattended. If this occurs you must allow several hours of recovery before running the water again.

The best way to flush chlorine out of a well is to *run* and *rest* the water in cycles according to the depth and yield of the well. This way the water is rising and falling in the well. As the water runs, it flushes chlorine out. As it rests, water rises in the well, rinsing chlorine off the casing and bringing chlorinated water up from below the pump, which is now ready to be flushed. Knowing the yield of your well can be very helpful. A 10 gallon per minute well yield can run all day; whereas a 1 gallon per minute well could easily run out of water in a short period of time. *If your well yield is unknown to you, we recommend you start by running the water **1 hour on and 2 hours off.** Repeat this cycle until all the chlorine is removed. Remember to continually monitor the discharge during the run time and adjust as necessary.

We will provide you with a chlorine test kit, please **wait 2 days to test for chlorine after beginning to run the well. Use the test kit to check for chlorine at the hose you have been using to run off the chlorine.** Test the chlorine level after the *resting* period, when the well is full. Run water for 10 to 15 minutes before checking for chlorine. At first when you test for chlorine it will show red, after several days it should gradually show pink. Once the chlorine is completely removed from the system the test will show clear. The chlorine test is an immediate read test, after ten minutes it will automatically turn pink even if no chlorine is present. If the test shows anything but clear, continue to run the well. Once you get a clear chlorine reading at the outside hose, you may then expunge the chlorine from the inside plumbing. Run both the hot and cold water at every faucet for about 10 minutes (the hot water may take longer). Wait overnight and check the *cold* water for

chlorine again before calling us for a bacteria retest. It is best to continue to run and rest your well until after we get our retest sample. The chlorine level can fluctuate as more chlorine rinses off the casing and rises up from below the pump. Most labs will charge if they come out and can not collect a sample because of chlorine. You should flush and retest the chlorine in the *cold* water on the morning of the retest to make sure it is still clear.

No one can tell you ahead of time how long removing the chlorine will take. Past experience tells us that it could take as little as one day. However the current record for longest chlorine run off is somewhere around 4 weeks. The most depressing thought on top of the former is that not all bacteria problems clean up after the first chlorination. If you are reading this on the 2nd week of running off the chlorine and you are thinking of telling us that we used too much chlorine just remember we want your well to clean up as much as you do. That's also why we didn't use too little chlorine. The only thing you can do to get the chlorine out of your well is to keep running and resting it through your garden hose. Good luck and keep your chin up.

** The run times used in this documentation are to be used as guidelines only and you may need to adjust your run times according to your well yield.*

- ◆ If you consistently have problems with your water supply, it does not necessarily indicate your well is dry; you should call a professional to determine the problem.
- ◆ Another way to diagnose your problem is to check your aerators at the sinks and clean them .Then see if you have water pressure at your tub and hose faucets.
- ◆ If your breaker is tripping you could have a pump problem. Since your well can become contaminated we do not recommend replacing the pump yourself.



***If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Caswell-McGill Inc.
(410)-557-WELL. It will be our pleasure to serve you.
© 2001 Caswell-McGill, Inc. All rights reserved***