



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CARE OF SMALL WATER SUPPLIES

Recently, the Tulare County Environmental Health Department received bacteriological sample results from your water supply. The results showed that your water is contaminated with coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria normally live in the soil, on plants and in the intestinal tract of humans and other warm-blooded animals. The presence of coliform bacteria in your water indicates that there is contamination in your water supply. If coliform bacteria are present, other organisms that cause disease can also be present in your water supply.

FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE SYSTEM USERS, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE BACTERIA BE DESTROYED BY DISINFECTION.

- All users must be notified of the reasons for disinfection and precautions to be taken.
- During this process, the water may be used for toilets and bathing. Water should be provided from another source for cooking and drinking purposes. Beware of laundering clothes while chlorine is in the system as it will bleach clothing.
- Please follow the procedures listed below to be sure that your water supply is properly disinfected and protected from future contamination.

1. Routine Protection of Water Supply:

- A. Seal all openings in the top of your well. The pump housing or well cover must be completely waterproof and insect-proof.
- B. Be sure that the cement slab around the well casing is not cracked and that it drains rain water away from the well.
- C. Electrical wires going into your well casing must be enclosed in electrical conduit. The conduit must form a waterproof and insect-proof seal with the well casing.
- D. All storage tanks and pressure tanks should be periodically cleaned and flushed out. All storage tank covers must be completely waterproof and insect-proof (all openings must be screened).

2. Chlorination Procedures:

- A. Chlorinate your well by pouring laundry bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) down into your well casing. Do not use the discharge pipe from the submersible pump. (If there is no chlorination plug, try removing the wiring conduit to allow access to the well.) Use the chart below to determine the amount of laundry bleach needed.



**TULARE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

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Well Depth	Amount of Liquid Household Bleach (5.25%)
Up to 150 ft.	One Quart
151 – 300 ft.	Two Quarts
Over 300 ft.	Half Gallon

- B. Chlorinate all storage tanks by adding one gallon of laundry bleach per 10,000-gallon tank capacity to the tanks when they are full. Overflow the storage tank to allow the chlorine to contact all surfaces within the tank.
- C. Open all **cold water** taps until a chlorine smell is detected at all taps.
- D. Close all taps. Leave the chlorine and water in the distribution lines for as long as possible (a minimum of 24 hours is recommended).
- E. After the chlorinated water has had time to disinfect the system, flush your well and tanks by opening all **cold water** taps until the smell or taste of chlorine has subsided. (Swimming pool test strips can be used to determine if chlorine remains in the water.)

AFTER YOUR WATER SUPPLY IS PROPERLY PROTECTED AND CHLORINATED, HAVE YOUR WATER RE-TESTED BY A STATE-CERTIFIED LABORATORY. SEND A COPY OF THE LABORATORY REPORT TO THIS DEPARTMENT WITHIN 10 DAYS OR AS OTHERWISE DIRECTED.