

If a water sample from the lab is positive for coliform bacteria or *E. coli*, the following procedure should be followed for disinfection. It is usually best to chlorinate the system in the evening and let stand over night. The recommendation is to allow at least four to six hours of chlorine contact time to allow disinfection to occur.

1. Remove well cap.
2. Mix one gallon of liquid bleach (i.e., Clorox/Purex) in a five-gallon bucket with four gallons of water.
3. Pour entire contents of chlorine mixture from bucket into well.
4. Reinstall well cap.
5. Beginning with the farthest exterior faucet from well, turn on the water until chlorine is detected by smell. Turn off faucet.
6. Repeat for all other cold water faucets in the system.
7. The following morning, begin flushing the system. It is suggested that initial flushing be done from all exterior hose bibs so you will not run unnecessary amounts of water into septic systems.
8. Then run the water through each interior faucet to allow the chlorine to completely flush from the system.
9. After chlorine smell is no longer detected, use water as normal.
10. A repeat water sample should not be drawn until 48 hours or more have passed after flushing the chlorine from the system.
11. If the sample is again positive, repeat the above procedure.

Total coliform is a family of bacteria mostly of intestinal origin; it could be present in soil, irrigation and surface water, sewage, etc.

E. coli is a specific coliform-bacteria of intestinal origin.

Both total coliform and E. coli are used as indicator organisms of surface water contamination.

If total coliform is present, your sample is contaminated and may contain disease-causing organisms.

If E. coli is present, your sample contains recent human fecal contamination and is very likely to contain disease causing organisms.

Please call the local District Health office in your area if you have questions.

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