



256 Williamstown Road

Ottawa, OH 45875

Phone: 419-523-5608

Fax: 419-523-4171

Email: pchd@putnamhealth.com

Website: www.putnamhealth.com

WATER WELL DISINFECTION INSTRUCTIONS DUE TO FLOOD

The Putnam County Health Department recommends that a well that has had water around or relatively near the casing, has been submerged, or is within 100 feet of a flooded stream should be properly pumped, cleaned disinfected, and then sampled. Pumping and disinfection information can be found below. Please contact the Putnam County Health Department at (419) 523-5608, if you are interested in sampling.

What you will need:

- 1 gallon of vinegar
- 2 gallons of household bleach (5.25% chlorine)
- **NOTE: Do not use scented bleach. Use new bottles as household bleach loses effectiveness the longer it sits on the shelf in a store or in your home.**
- Garden hose

1. **Turn off** all electricity to the well area before clearing debris away. Clear away all debris from well area.
2. **Turn on** electricity back to pump.
3. Start the **pump and run water** until it is clear. Use the outside faucet nearest to the well to drain the potentially contaminated water from the well and keep the unsafe well water out of the interior household plumbing. The well should be heavily pumped to remove as much flood water as possible from the casing and geologic formation. Over pumping will help remove flood water from the ground water supply. Do not discharge this water into the septic system, as it could cause the system to be overloaded.
4. If a water softener is connected to your water system follow manufacturer's directions to close valves to **bypass the water softener** as large amounts of chlorine can damage the resin bed inside softeners.
5. **Remove** well cap.
6. **Pour** 1 gallon of vinegar into well. Wait 1 hour. (This step adjusts the water pH for better disinfection).
7. **Pour** 2 gallons of bleach into well.
8. **Connect** a garden hose to an outside spigot and run water directly into the well. Circulate chlorine water for 30 minutes. Turn off outside tap, remove hose, and replace well cap.
9. **Disinfect** water lines in the house by opening all water fixtures in the house and all outside spigots. Remember to run water into the washing machine, flush all toilets, and rarely or never used faucets. Let the water run until you have a strong odor of chlorine. Be sure to include both hot and cold faucets.
10. **Disinfect** water softener by pouring $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of 5% chlorine bleach into the small fill tube on the large brine tank followed by a manual recharge or follow manufacture's disinfection instructions.
11. **Close** all valves and let sit for 12-24 hours.
12. **Reconnect** hose to the outside spigot and begin running water onto the ground or into a drainage ditch until the chlorine is completely flushed from the system and the chlorine odor disappears. (This may take several hours depending on the depth of the well).
13. **Open** each fixture in the house until chlorine odor is gone.
14. **System must be purged of chlorine for at least 48 hours before testing.**
15. **Contact** Putnam County Health Department at 419-523-5608 to schedule a water sample. Revised: 7/11/17