

Disinfecting a Storage Tank

If you must disinfect your source (well) and your storage tank, disinfect the source first.

Draw down the water level in the storage tank.

As the tank refills, pour the chlorine in so it mixes. A quarter of a cup of household bleach per 1000 gallons of water gives a 1-2 parts per million mixture which is usually sufficient for disinfection.

Flush water through all taps on the system until you smell the chlorine. Allow the chlorine to remain in the system at least 4 hours, preferably overnight.

Replace the chlorinated water in the tank with fresh water from the source by opening outside taps or hydrants.* Open other taps on the system to remove chlorinated water from the water pipes. Be careful not to over work the well pump.

***IMPORTANT:** Regulate the flow of water from fixtures that discharge into a septic system to avoid overloading the system, or catch the water in a basin or bucket and discard outdoors. Do not pour into any water body, wetland or drainage ditch; heavily chlorinated water may kill lawn or plants.

To determine the size of your holding tank:

Length x width x depth = cubic feet. 1 cubic foot of water = 7.48 gallons

Example: Tank size is 7' long x 5' wide x 4' deep = 140 cubic feet

140 cubic feet x 7.48 gallons/cubic foot = 1047 gallons of water

The volume of a round tank = $3.14 \times \text{radius}^2$ in feet x height in feet.

To find the radius, measure across the tank at the widest point (diameter) and divide by 2.