Cheyenne Laramie County Public Health

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PROCEDURE FOR DISINFECTING RESIDENTIAL WATER WELL AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

1) Open the top of the well, pour **ONLY** a quart (**NO MORE)** of **regular** household bleach.
   - Run water from a hose connected to a main faucet/spigot **furthest away** from the well until water has a strong chlorine odor. This process may take 60 minutes or more depending on the depth of the well, the depth of the pump, the length and size of distribution pipes and hoses. Periodic checking for chlorine in the water is required.

2) Once chlorine is detected from the hose, turn off the water then proceed to turn on each inside and outside faucet until chlorine is detected then turn it off. **Be sure to run both the hot & cold water,** this ensures that the chlorine is contacting all surfaces within the plumbing system and well.
   - **Be sure to also run chlorine into the following lines: toilets, dishwashers, washing machines, ice machines and refrigerator water taps.**

3) Allow the chlorine to stand in the pipes for 12 to 24 hours. In most cases 12 to 16 hours or overnight is sufficient.
   - **NOTE: It is not recommended to use/drink the water during this process.**

4) After the appropriate time period, flush main outside faucet until the chlorine smell is **totally** gone. Continue to flush outside hose pointed away from your drain field.
   - Next, flush **all** inside faucets, toilets, dishwashers, washing machines, icemakers and refrigerator water taps until the chlorine smell is **totally** gone and turn off each faucet.
   - Continue to run outside lines an additional 4 – 6 hours.

NOTE: DO NOT RUN FLUSHED WATER OVER DRAINFIELD.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Have water sampled at least twice a year, once in late spring and again in late fall.
- **Keep all records and water reports** on the well from the time of drilling to present. These records may prove to be useful in solving any future problems.