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**Sulfur bacteria or sulfate reducing bacteria are found in some well water supplies in Orange County. They are generally not harmful, but can produce a distinctive “rotten egg” smell and cause staining of fixtures and clothes. The following procedure is recommended as an initial or periodic treatment for this problem. Please note that elimination of these bacteria and their associated smell does not guarantee the well water system is free of other pathogenic organisms. For persistent sulfur bacteria problems, it is recommended that you use the Calcium Hypochlorite solution rather than liquid bleach**

### PROCEDURE FOR CHLORINATION OF WELLS

1. A disinfection solution should be prepared by using **either**:
  - Regular (unscented) household liquid bleach. One gallon of bleach per 100 feet of well depth is usually adequate for most wells, or
  - Calcium Hypochlorite (65% – 75%) including trade names HTH or Chlor-Tabs. Do not use any other type of pool disinfectant as it may contain fungicides, algaecides, or stabilizers. Use 8 oz. of Calcium Hypochlorite per 100 feet of well depth. The solid should be dissolved in three to four gallons of water.

The chlorine or chlorine mixture can then be poured into the well through a funnel in the vent hole. For safety reasons, these products should be used with caution and manufacturer’s directions must be followed.

2. Connect a clean hose or tube to the well spigot or an outside spigot and circulate the water back into the well through the vent hole until a chlorine odor is detected. This may take an hour or more. Continue re-circulating for an additional hour back into the well after the chlorine odor is detected.
3. One at a time, open each cold water faucet and outside spigot at the house only until the chlorine odor can be detected, then close faucets.
4. Allow the chlorine to remain in the well and distribution pipes for at least 12 hours.
5. After the 12 hour contact time, connect garden hoses to outside spigots and well taps and pump off the water until no chlorine odor can be detected. Depending on the well, this could take several hours or several days. **Keep this discharge out of the septic tank and out of the drainfield area. Also know the limitations of your well so as not to run the well dry. If the flow from the hose drops significantly, turn the well off and allow it to recover for at least two hours before running the water again.**
6. Once the procedure is complete, the sulfur (rotten egg) smell should be gone. If the odor quickly returns after this chlorination procedure, you may want to consider installing a continuous treatment system specifically designed to eliminate these types of bacteria from the water system

Please call the Health Department or check our website if you have any questions regarding this procedure