



Fact Sheet

General maintenance of a ground water supply should include a semi-annual shock chlorination to control bacterial growth. Shock chlorination should also be carried out on any newly constructed well and after any maintenance work or after any suspected contamination occurs, e.g., flooding.

Materials Required

- a clean water tank with a holding capacity of at least 1360 litres (300 gallons)
- garden hose
- 20 litres of industrial strength chlorine (12% sodium hypochlorite) – available from any chemical dealer, water treatment supplier, or dairy supply retailer

Procedure

1. The shock chlorination treatment will require the well to be taken out-of-service. Therefore, store enough water to meet all necessary requirements for a minimum 12-hour period.
2. Fill the water tank to a minimum of 1360 litres (300 gallons) with water from the well.
3. After drawing water from the well, allow the well to recover to its static (non-pumping) level.
4. Add 10 litres of the chlorine solution (12% sodium hypochlorite) to the well through the garden hose extended as far down the well as possible.
5. Add the remaining 10 litres of the 12% sodium hypochlorite to the tank of water.
6. Slowly add the water with chlorine from the tank to the well (do not exceed the well pumping rate).
7. Run all outlets (hydrants, watering bowls, toilets, taps) until the chlorine smell can be detected. Do not run chlorinated water through certain types of water treatment equipment (e.g., softeners, reverse osmosis systems). For specifics, contact your equipment dealer or the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.
8. Turn entire system off for at least 12 hours.
9. After 12 hours, flush the entire system until the chlorine smell disappears and the water runs clear.
10. Return the system to normal operation.

Precautions

- Follow chlorine manufacturer's instructions for use. Chlorine concentrations at this level are dangerous. Avoid contact with skin, inhaling the fumes and wear protective clothing/eye wear.
- Ventilate well-confined spaces, e.g., well pit, crawl space, and all other confined spaces.
- Do not discharge wastewater to septic tank systems, lawns, planted trees or other vegetated areas such as flower beds.

Need More Information?

Call the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's Rural Water Quality office toll free at 1-866-TEST-H2O (1-866-837-8420) or contact any of the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority offices listed below.

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Offices

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Saskatoon Office

101 – 108 Research Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3R3
Ph: (306) 933-7442
Fax: (306) 933-6820
E-mail: comm@swa.ca

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Head Office

Victoria Place
111 Fairford Street East
Moose Jaw, SK S6H 7X9
Ph: (306) 694-3980
Fax: (306) 694-3944
E-mail: comm.@swa.ca

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Weyburn Regional Office

Box 2003
3rd Floor, City Centre Mall
110 Souris Avenue
Weyburn, SK S4H 2Z9
Ph: (306) 848-2345
Fax: (306) 848-2356
E-mail: comm@swa.ca

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Swift Current Regional Office

Box 5000
3rd Floor, E.I. Wood Building
350 Cheadle Street West
Swift Current, SK S9H 4G3
Ph: (306) 778-8257
Fax: (306) 778-8271
E-mail: comm@swa.ca

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Nipawin Regional Office

Box 2133
201 – 1st Avenue East
Nipawin, SK S0E 1E0
Ph: (306) 862-1750
Fax: (306) 862-1771
E-mail: comm@swa.ca

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Yorkton Regional Office

2nd Floor, 120 Smith Street East
Yorkton, SK S3N 3V3
Ph: (306) 786-1490
Fax: (306) 786-1495
E-mail: comm@swa.ca

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority North Battleford Regional Office

402 Royal Bank Tower
1101 - 101st St.
North Battleford, SK S9A 0Z5
Ph: (306) 446-7450
Fax: (306) 446-7461
E-mail: comm@swa.ca

General information about the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, our programs, Fact Sheets and forms can be found on our website at www.swa.ca.