

WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
LABORATORY DIVISION
501 ELLA AVENUE
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60433

PHONE: 727.8517

DESCRIPTION OF TEST: The Will County Health Department Laboratory has tested your water for the presence or absence of pollution-type bacteria called "coliforms". There is no simple test for the presence of actual disease-producing bacteria.

WHY TEST FOR COLIFORMS: Coliform bacteria are normally present in the intestinal tract of humans, animals and birds. Coliforms are found in large numbers of sewage. They are found in surface water and in topsoil or rock. If found in drinking water, they usually indicate that pollution is entering the supply. New or recently repaired wells or water systems have coliforms present until the well pump and piping system have been adequately disinfected.

HOW SERIOUS THIS IS: If the way is open for surface water, shallow ground water or sewage to enter the supply, then actual disease-producing bacteria may enter. Intestinal diseases that may be transmitted by contaminated water are diarrhea, dysentery, infectious hepatitis and typhoid fever. Also parasitic intestinal worms and amoebic cysts that cause dysentery may be present in contaminated water.

WHAT TO DO:

1. IF THE WATER IS CONTAMINATED, abandon the supply for one of known safety or bring the water to a rolling boil for three minutes before use until improvements have been made the supply safe. Boiled water may be kept safely in boiled glass jars or bottles with tight covers.
2. If the well is satisfactorily located but is not of proper construction, it should be reconstructed in an approved manner and disinfected properly to obtain safe water.
3. If the well is not properly located, it should be relocated and reconstructed in an approval manner whereby it should not be subject to possible contamination and should provide safe water.

It is the recommendation of this Department that if you have any doubt that your well is not of proper construction or of proper location, you should contact your well driller or representatives of this Department.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STAFF ARE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION SERVICE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS.

WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
LABORATORY DIVISION
501 ELLA AVENUE
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60433

PHONE: 727.8517

DISINFECTION OF PRIVATE WATER WELLS

Enclosed with the bulletin is a copy of the bacteriological analysis recently conducted upon a water sample collected from your well. As you will detect, the analysis discloses that your well water is unsatisfactory for drinking or culinary purposes. Based upon this analysis, the water from your well should not be used for drinking, cooking, washing of food or fruit, brushing of teeth or even the bathing of babies, until it has been proven to be of satisfactory bacteriological quality.

The following procedure can be extremely helpful in the disinfection of your well. This procedure should also be used for the disinfection of new wells or following the repair of existing wells.

1. Check the well seal and vent to be certain of good, tight construction. Replace any worn or damaged parts.
2. Remove well seal. Mix one gallon of ordinary household chlorine bleach available at your grocery store with three gallons of water. Pour this solution directly into the well casing, making sure that the connection is water-tight.
3. Turn on each water faucet in your home and let them run until you can smell the laundry bleach at each tap.
4. Turn off taps and allow the solution to stand in water lines over night.
5. On the following morning, and if you have public sewers, let each water tap in your house run until the odor of laundry bleach has disappeared. If you have a septic system, connect a garden hose to an outside tap and run the water into the roadside ditch until the odor of bleach has disappeared. Then open each tap in the house and let the water run until all odors have disappeared.
6. Three or four days after you no longer detect a laundry bleach odor or taste, collect another sample and forward it to the Will County Health Department Laboratory for another analysis. This sample should be marked "second sample" in the remarks section of the report form. NO SAMPLE SHOULD BE COLLECTED FOR ANALYSIS IF THE TASTE OR ODOR OF BLEACH STILL REMAINS.

All water from private wells should be analyzed bacteriologically at least once every year. Sample bottles for this purpose are available at the Will County Health Department from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

IF FURTHER INFORMATION IS DESIRED, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL UPON THIS DEPARTMENT. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STAFF ARE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION SERVICE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS.