

Contaminants in Drinking Water

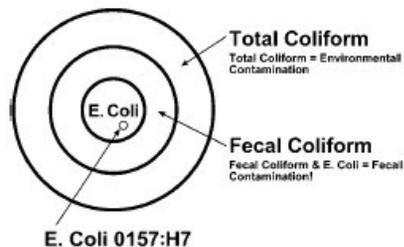
Coliform bacteria: Presence in drinking water indicates that disease-causing organisms may be present in the water system and includes three different groups; total coliform, fecal coliform and *E.coli*.

Total Coliform: Source is probably environmental and it is important to determine the source and resolve the problem.

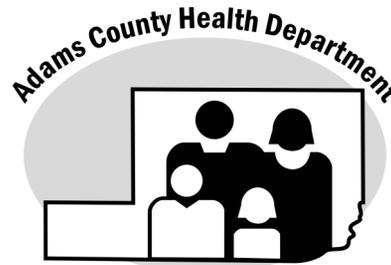
Fecal Coliform: Found in intestines and feces of people and animals. Presence indicates that there is a greater risk that pathogens are present.

***E.coli*:** Some strains may cause illness and its presence indicates fecal contamination, meaning there is a greater risk that pathogens are present.

TOTAL COLIFORM, FECAL COLIFORM AND E. COLI



If you have questions regarding any of the information in this brochure, please feel free to contact the Health Department at 509-488-2031



Adams County Health Department

Environmental Health
Adams County Health Department
425 E Main, suite 700
Othello, WA 99344

Telephone Othello: 509-488-2031
Fax Othello: 509-331-0030
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*Adams County Health
Department*

Drinking Water:

Information on Well Disinfection



Telephone Othello: 509-488-2031
Telephone Ritzville: 509-659-3315

Well Disinfection

When to Disinfect

Water systems should be disinfected any time one of the following is experienced:

- When the system loses pressure for any reason,
- When any part of the system is “opened up” for maintenance or repairs,
- When backflow or back-siphonage creates a cross-connection event, or
- When total coliform, fecal coliform, or E.coli is found present in both routine and repeat coliform samples



Most wells have a sanitary seal to keep contamination out of the well. If your well does not have a sanitary seal, or if the seal is in poor condition, have one installed or replace it.

Procedure

1. To chlorinate your well, you must gain access to the inside of the well casing by either removing the sanitary seal or by removing the access plug on the sanitary seal.

2. The amount of chlorine depends on the type of chlorine used and the amount of water standing in the well casing.

When using household bleach: 5.25%

Total Well Depth

Amount of
Chlorine Bleach

Less Than 40 ft.

1/2 gallon 40

-150 ft.

1 gallon

150 + ft.

1-1/2 to 2 gal.

3. To mix the chlorine with water, connect a garden hose to the nearest outside faucet and circulate the water through the hose back to the source. This will mix the chlorine with the water and the pump will draw the chlorine to the bottom of the well. Once you start smelling the chlorine in the water coming out of the hose, use the hose to rinse the upper portion of the well with the disinfectant. Rinse sanitary seal and replace.

4. Starting with the outlet closest to the point of chlorine addition, turn on every outlet

until you can smell chlorine. Turn off the outlets once chlorine is detected.

5. Allow the chlorine to remain in the system for no less than 12 hours (24 hours is preferred) for chlorine needs time to do an effective job.

6. To remove the chlorine, use one or more outside faucets to draw water out of the system. The system should be repeatedly flushed to remove the chlorine. Chlorinated water should never be discharged to any water body, wetland, drainage ditch and should not be pumped into a septic tank.

7. After following this procedure and determining the water completely free of disinfectant, you should wait a minimum of 7 days after disinfection before collecting a bacteriological sample. The chlorine residual should be measured and noted on the coliform



lab slip whenever coliform samples are collected.

