

# Guidance for Disinfection of a Private Domestic Well

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Water Supply & Geoscience

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If microbial contamination is discovered in a private domestic well, immediate disinfection is advised. This task should be carried out in accordance with the Well Construction and Maintenance; Sealing of Abandoned Wells regulations N.J.A.C. 7:9D (Well Regulations) and the Safe Drinking Act Regulations N.J.A.C. 7:10-12.11 as outlined below:

## ***7:10-12.11 Disinfection of water system components***

(a) *After completion of construction, alteration, or repair of a public noncommunity or non-public water system, all surfaces with which adequately protected water may come into contact shall be disinfected before being placed into service.*

(b) *Methods of disinfection include, but are not limited to, the following:*

- 1. Contact with a chlorine solution of concentration not less than 50 parts per million for a minimum period of 12 hours;*
- 2. Contact with a chlorine solution of concentration not less than 20 ppm for a minimum period of 24 hours;*
- 3. Thorough wetting of the surfaces to be disinfected by means of brush or spray application of a chlorine solution of concentration not less than 500 ppm for a minimum contact period of one hour.*

In accordance with the Well Regulations a Master, Journeyman, Journeyman (Class B) Well Driller or Pump Installer can disinfect private domestic wells as outlined above. A list of licensed drillers can be found at [https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/pw\\_permit.html](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/pw_permit.html).

A licensed well driller of the proper class or pump installer must use American National Standards Institute/National Sanitation Foundation (ANSI/NSF) Standard 60 approved chemicals and will be able to determine whether there are any defects to correct or necessary maintenance to prevent future contamination. Before disinfecting a well, it is important for the licensed individual to ascertain, to the extent possible, that the well is located and constructed such that it is protected from contamination sources.

If you have any questions regarding the disinfection requirements in the Safe Drinking Water Regulations, please contact your local Health Department.