Mississippi River. A total of 24 miles of the river is in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. Bilingual Services are available from 7 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. 7 days a week, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Toll free 1-888-936-7463 or call 1-800-943-0003 phone. How may we help you? Search: contact

Bacteriological Contamination of Drinking Water Wells

Most private wells provide a safe and uncontaminated source of drinking water. Some wells do, however, become contaminated with bacteria. For those who are sensitive to certain bacteria, it is good practice to regularly test your water. You should have your water tested at least annually and whenever you notice a change in the taste, odor or color of the water.

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How can I find possible sources of my well contamination?

• If the casing does not extend far enough above the ground surface, it can allow contaminated water to migrate downward into the casing.

• Surface water can enter the top of the well casing if the casing does not extend far enough above the ground surface.

• The well casing termite in a basement or pit, or pit, can allow surface to the aquifer.

• An old well casing may become badly corroded and allow water to leak into the well through in the casing.

• A well with a noncomplying casing depth can allow contaminated water to enter the well.

• A well having, old standards, "subzero" casing can allow near surface water to enter the well.

• Notes: A well with the defects indicated with an asterisk (*) cannot be repaired and the well will need to be replaced with a new, code-compliant well.

• The volume of standing water is calculated by the formula: \( V = \pi \times \frac{D}{2} \times \frac{H}{2} \times \frac{H}{2} \)

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• If you undertake this procedure you will need to ensure that you are following the instructions correctly.

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• Chemicals used in the chlorination process involves the mixing of bleach and water, which is very damaging to eyes and lungs and can be deadly in extreme cases. Be extremely cautious not to get the solution in your eyes or lungs.

• If you undertake this procedure you will need to ensure that you are following the instructions correctly.

Disinfection Procedure

1. To disinfect your water you will need to do the following:

2. Calculate the volume of standing water within your well, according to the following instructions:

   - The volume of water standing within a well is equal to the water level multiplied by the volume factor for your well. (Volume factors are listed below for various well diameters.)

   - Volume factor equation: \( V = \pi \times \frac{D}{2} \times \frac{H}{2} \times \frac{H}{2} \)

   - Where: \( D \) is the diameter of the well, \( H \) is the depth of the standing water in the well, and \( \pi \) is the mathematical constant approximately equal to 3.14.

   - The volume of water standing within a well is calculated by the formula: \( V = \pi \times \frac{D}{2} \times \frac{H}{2} \times \frac{H}{2} \)

   - A close-up view of the chlorine solution will be used to test your water for chlorine content. The chlorine solution can damage the chlorine test strip. Be sure to follow the instructions for the chlorine test strip.

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