



# Materials Needed:

- 2-3 gallons of non-scented household liquid bleach;
- rubber gloves;
- eye protection;
- old clothes; and
- a funnel.



# Before Disinfection:

Check the condition of your well. Make sure there is no exposed or damaged wiring. If you notice any damage call a professional before the disinfection process.



# Steps In Disinfecting A Well:

**1.** If your water is muddy or cloudy, run the water from an outside spigot with a hose attached until the water becomes clear and free of sediments.



**2.** Determine what type of well you have and how to pour the bleach into the well. Some wells have a sanitary seal with either an air vent or a plug that can be removed (a).



If it is a bored or dug well, the entire cover can be lifted off to provide a space for pouring the bleach into the well (b).



**3.** Take the containers of bleach and funnel (if needed) and carefully pour all the bleach down into the well casing.



**4.** After the bleach has been added, run water from an outside hose into the well casing until you smell chlorine coming from the hose. Then turn off the outside hose.



**5.** Turn on all cold water faucets, inside and outside of house, until the chlorine odor is detected in each faucet, then shut them all off. If you have a water treatment system, switch it to bypass before turning on the indoor faucets.



**6.** Wait six to 24 hours before turning the faucets back on. It is important not to drink, cook, bathe or wash with this water during the time period — it contains high amounts of chlorine.

**7.** Once the waiting period is up, turn on an outside spigot with hose attached and run the water into a safe area where it will not disturb plants, lakes, streams, or septic tanks. Run the water until there is no longer a chlorine odor. Turn the water off. Note that this process can take several hours to flush all of the bleach out.



**8.** The system should now be disinfected and you can now use the water.

**9.** It is recommended to have your water tested for bacteria seven to 10 days after disinfection.

