

# Working Well





#### **Program Background**

- Coalbed Methane public information meetings in 2006
- Pilot (7 workshops)
  - Funded through Water for Life
- Program Launched in 2008
  - Cross-Ministry funding with 1/3 funding from Alberta
     Environment and Parks, Alberta
     Agriculture and Forestry, and
     Alberta Health



### Working Well Program

- Steering Committee
  - Alberta Environment and Parks
  - Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
  - Alberta Health
  - Alberta Health Services
  - Alberta Water Well Drilling Association
  - Association of Alberta
     Agricultural Fieldmen



### Working Well Program

- Technical Committee
  - 15 factsheets
  - 1 E-Learning video
  - 2 YouTube vides
  - Presentation content
- Delivery Staff
  - Sagewood Communications
    - Program delivery and coordination
  - Assistance from partner org's



#### 10 Years of Working Well...

- 298 workshops
- over 7900 partipants
- 200 communities
- The Working Well program maintains a proactive approach to encourage and empower private well owners to be stewards of our groundwater resources and is a non-regulatory approach to achieveing safe, secure drinking water supplies.



### **Typical Workshop Agenda**

- Understanding groundwater
- How your well works
- Water well problems
- Top 10 well enemies
- Shock chlorinating your well
- Taking water samples
- Take home messages

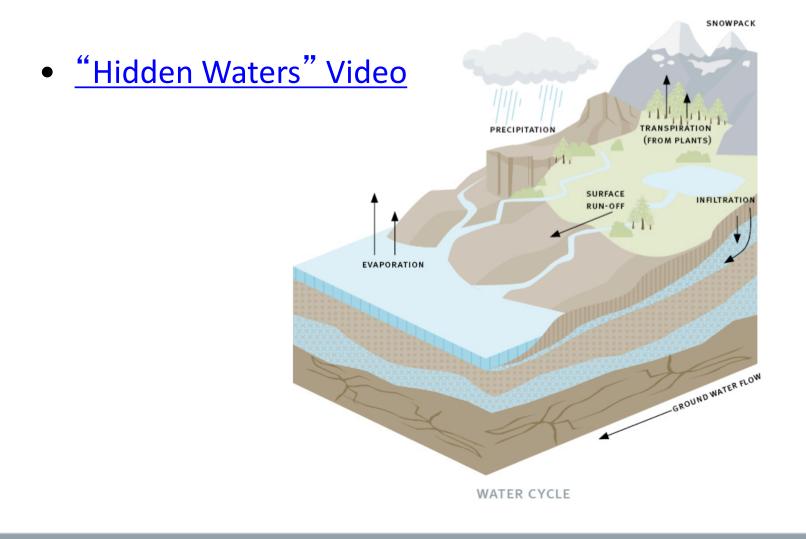


# Understanding Groundwater





#### **Understanding Groundwater**





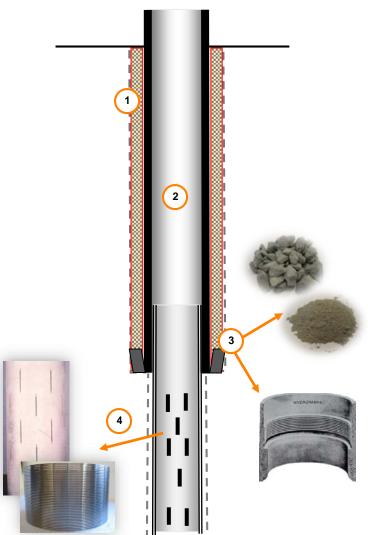
## How Your Well Works





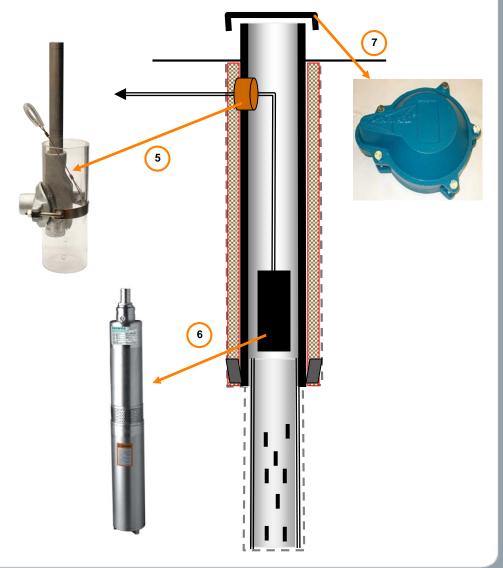
#### Key Components of a Water Well

- 1. Borehole
  - Conduit to aquifer
- 2. Casing/Cribbing
  - Keeps borehole open
  - Houses pumping equipment
  - Excludes undesirable aquifers
- 3. Annular Seal
  - Prevents contamination from surface
  - Prevents mixing of aquifers
  - Sealing method is dependent on type of well construction (bentonite, drive shoe)
- 4. Well Intake
  - Allows groundwater into the well
  - Slotted liner/casing or screen

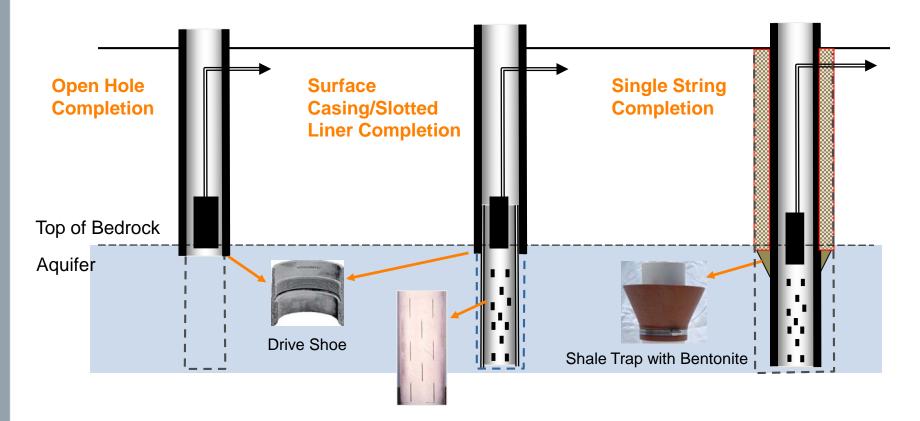


#### Key Components of a Water Well

- 5. Pitless Adaptor
  - Water-tight connection to distribution system
  - Preferably non-obstructive type
- 6. Pump
  - Properly matched to recommended pumping rate
- 7. Well Cap
  - Protects well from direct contamination

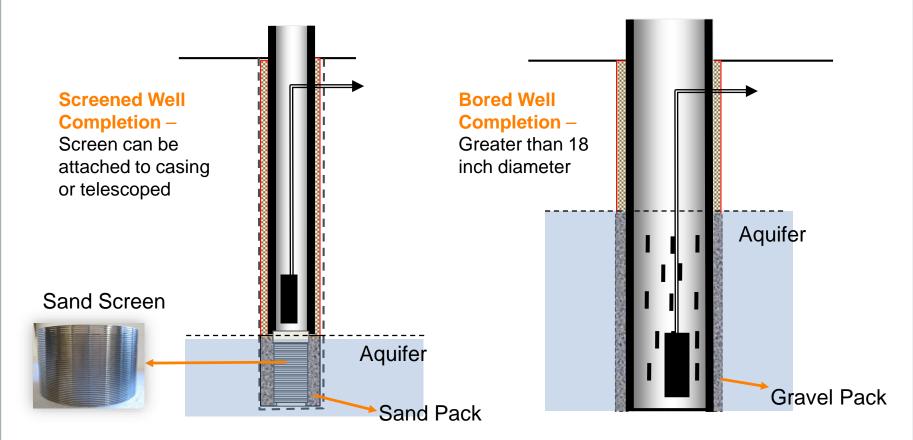


#### Typical Well Completions – Bedrock Aquifers



Well Completions used in *consolidated* bedrock formations (shale, sandstone)

#### Typical Well Completions – *Surficial Aquifers*



Well Completions used in *unconsolidated* surficial materials (sand, gravel)

### **Understanding Your Drilling Report**

f Albert	The driller supplies the data contained in this report accuracy. The information on this report will be retained in a p	The Province disclaims responsibility for its GoA Well Tag No.     Date Report Received 2009	/05/28
<ol> <li>Well Identification Owner Name</li> </ol>	and Location	Town Province Postal Cod	ent in Imperia
Joe Smith	Canal Street	Albertatown AB	0
Location 1/4 o	or LSD SEC TWP RGE W of MER 01 001 01 4	Lot Block Plan Additional Description	
Measured from Bour	ndary of GPS Coordin tt from Latitude ft from How Location	ates in Decimal Degrees (NAD 83) Longitude Elevation 0.00 ft How Elevation Obtained	_
. Drilling Informatio	n		
Method of Drilling Rotary	Type of Work New Well	Proposed Well Use Domestic	
. Formation Log	Measurement in Im		ent in Imperia
Depth from ground Water			d Date 08/07/09
level (ft) Bearing 45.00	Lithology Description Brown Clay		(ft) 5.00
62.00	Sand & Gravel	Surface Casing (if applicable) Well Casing/Liner	
108.00	Brown Clay	Plastic Plastic Size OD : 6.00 in Size OD : 4.50	in
121.00	Sand	Wall Thickness : 0.432 in Wall Thickness : 0.237	in
138.00	Gray Clay	Bottom at : 145.00 ft Top at : 120.00	
146.00	Gray Shale	Bottom at : 245.00	ft
152.00	Bentonite Brown Shale	Perforations           From (ft)         To (ft)         Diameter (in)         In	terval (in)
168.00	Coal	180.00 240.00 0.020	2.00
181.00	Green Shale	Perforated by Machine	
220.00	Gray Sandstone & Coal	Annular Seal Bentonite Chips/Tablets	
222.00	Coal	Placed from 0.00 ft to 145.00 ft	
241.00	Gray Sandstone	Amount	
245.00	Gray Sandy Shale	Other Seals Type At (ft)	
		Screen Type:         Unknown           Side OD :         in           From (R)         To (R)           Side S         Attachmet Usknown           Top Fittings Usknown         Bottom Fittings Usknown           Type Usknown         Grain Size           Amount         Unknown	ize (in)
A Water Well Dri Company Name	n responsible for drilling/construction of well	Certification No Copy of Well report provided to owner Date approval h	rolder signed
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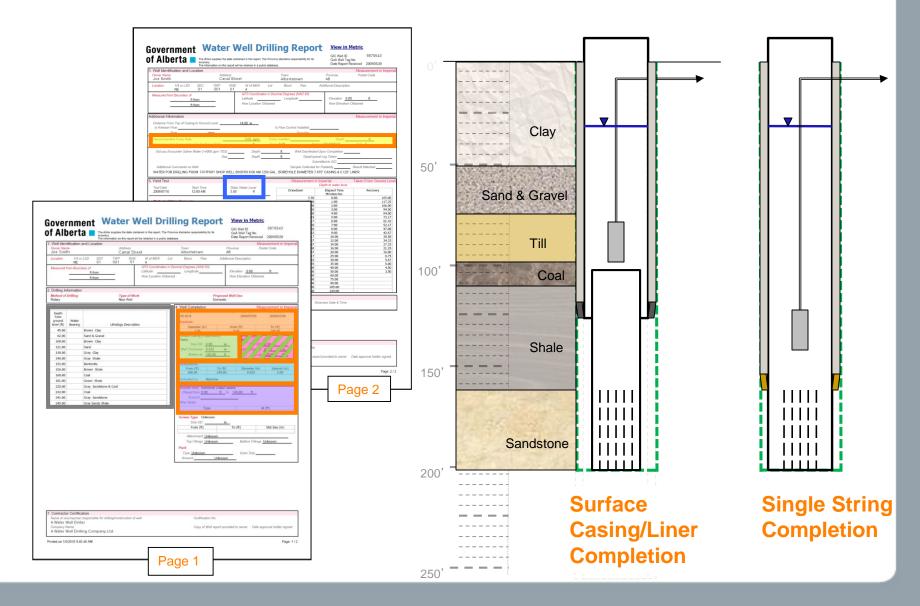
of Alberta	The dri	ler supplies the d	ata contained	in this report. T	The Provinc	e disclaims re	Repo	GIC Well GoA Well	Tag No.	9876543 2009/05/28
1. Well Identification ar	nd Location								Mea	surement in Imper
Owner Name Joe Smith		Addre Cana	ss I Street			<i>Town</i> Alberta	atown	Province AB	Po	stal Code
Location 1/4 or L NE	SD SEC 01	7WP 001		W of MER 4	Lot	Block	Plan	Additional Descrip	tion	
Measured from Bounds	ity of ft from ft from	_	La	S Coordinat titude w Location C		imal Degree Longit		Elevation How Eleva	0.00 tion Obtained	ft
Additional Information			_						Mea	surement in Imper
Distance From Top of Is Artesian Flow	Casing to Groun	d Level	14.0	0 in	,	s Flow Cont	rol Installed			
Rate		iapm					Describe			
Recommended Pump			1	5.00 igpm		installed		Depth		ît.
Recommended Pump				n	Type	SUB		Indel GRUNDFOS	H.P.	.5
Did you Encounter S	aline Water (>4			Depth_		ft.		ed Upon Completion		
		Gas		Depth_		ft.		sical Log Taken ubmitted to GIC		
. Yield Test Test Date	Start Time		Static Wat	w Level			Measurement	Depth to water lev		From Ground Le
2008/07/10	12:00 AM		3.50	ft		Dra	nvdown	Elapsed Time Minutes:Sec		Recovery
Method of Water Ren	unual.						3.50		_	165.00 117.25
	e Pump						12.00			106.00
Removal Rat		.00 igpm			-		26.58			94.50
Depth Withdrawn Frog		00 ft					36.00	4:00	_	84.00 73.17
Coper management rog	100						49.17			61.42
If water removal period	l was < 2 hours,	explain why					55.50			52.17
MEASURED FROM TO	DC						63.58		_	47.08
							70.33	10:00	_	42.67
							86.67			34.33
							96.67	14:00		27.33
							105.00		_	21.25
							132.17			8.75
							145.33			5.67
							155.25	35:00	_	5.00 4.50
							165.00		-	4.50
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8. Water Diverted for D	rilling									
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. Contractor Certificat										
Name of Journeyman re		alling/construct	on of well				Certification N	>		
A Water Well Drille	r						o			
Company Name	ng Company						Copy of Well n	sport provided to own	er Date ap	proval holder signed

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#### Drawing Your Own Well – Bedrock Completions





## Water Well Problems





#### Introduction

- Common well problems include:
  - Reduction in yield
  - Changes in water quality
  - Sediment in water
- Causes of well problems
  - Biofouling
  - Over pumping



#### Biofouling – What Is It?

- Nuisance bacteria that accumulate in a well
  - Iron-related bacteria (IRB)
  - Sulphate-reducing bacteria (SRB)
  - Other slime forming bacteria
- Pumping a well increases nutrients and oxygen leading to an increase in production of slime



### **Biofouling** - Symptoms

- Slime build-up in plumbing fixtures
- Changes in water quality such as:
  - Water discolouration
  - Staining of plumbing fixtures and laundry
  - Bad taste and odour (rotten egg smell)
- Gradual decrease in yield
- Increased corrosion of metal parts of your well



Down-hole camera video footage

#### Biofouling – What You Can Do

- Regular disinfection (shock chlorination)
- May need to have well cleaned first by a licensed water well contractor



### Over-pumping – What Is It?

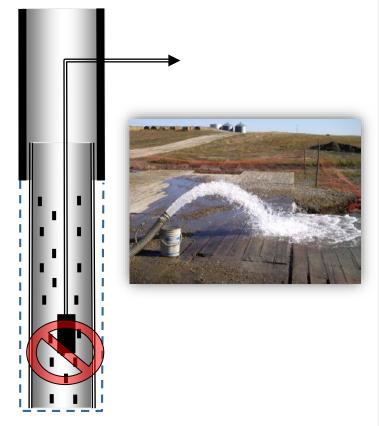
Over-pumping occurs when the:

- Rate of pumping is greater than the well's capacity
- Pumping water level is drawn down below top of perforations or top of the aquifer

Problem accentuated when pump is placed inside intake portion of well

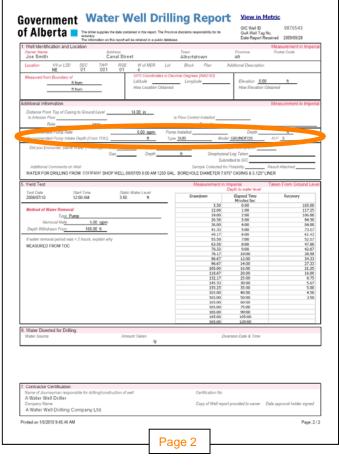
Over-pumping may lead to:

- Sediment in water
- Well failure
- Increased biofouling



### Over-pumping – *What You Can Do*

- Do not over-pump your well!
- Check your drilling report for:
  - Recommended pump intake depth
  - Recommended pumping rate
    - Apply with caution!
    - Size pump properly to match well capability
- Conserve water
- Install flow control device and additional storage, if needed



• See the fact sheet *Over-pumping Your Well* (Issue 6)

### More Problems...

- Mineral Incrustation/Scale
- Sediment Plugging
- Structural Failure



## **Top 2 Well Enemies**



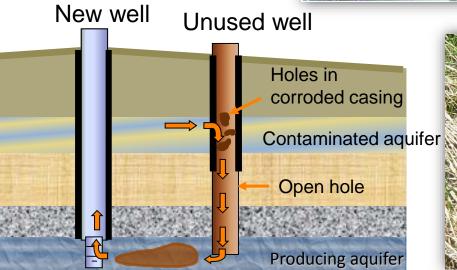


#### Enemy #1 – Old, Abandoned Wells





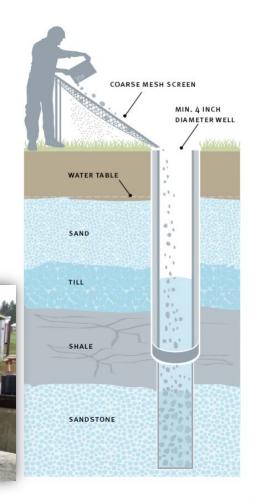




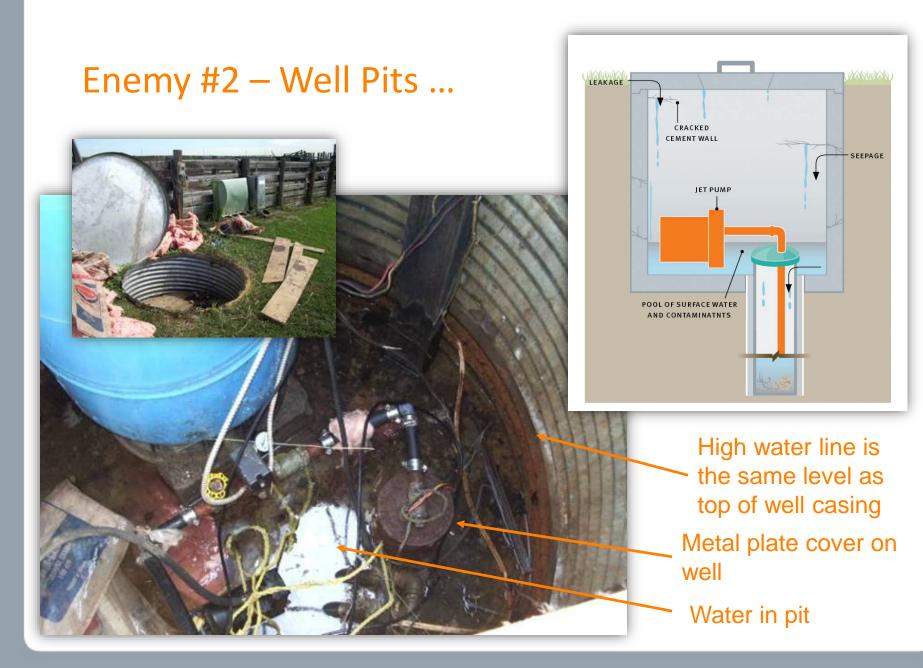


#### Enemy #1 – What You Can Do

- Properly plug all unused wells and holes
- Contact your licensed water well contractor or water specialist for recommendations
- See the fact sheet *Plugging Your Well* (*Issue 4*)







#### Enemy #2 – and Wells in Basements



Well Methane in water is a safety hazard

#### Excess nitrogen from water well blamed for deaths

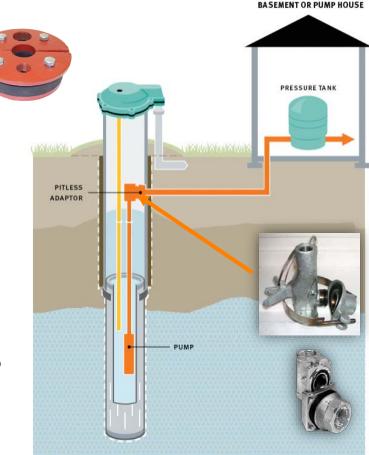
Investigators say the deaths of two Alberta teens were not caused by poisonous air but a lack of oxygen in the family's root cellar.

MITCH COOPER SOUTHAM NEWSPAPERS SYLVAN LAKE, Alta. — A freak geological occurrence killed two Sylvas Lake teens as they fetchéd vegetables from a root cellar on the family farm, an investigation has found family farm, an investigation shave also renewed warnings for rural Albertans to ensure adequate ventilation around underaround well facilities.

Well in basement is susceptible to flooding and sewage backup

#### Enemy #2 – What You Can Do

- Well pits:
  - Get rid of the pit
  - Install a pitless adapter
- Wells in basements:
  - Install a sanitary well seal
  - Have an emergency sump pump in basement
  - Or plug well and drill a replacement outside of house
- See the fact sheet Upgrading Your Well in a Pit (Issue 5)



#### More Enemies...

- Inadequate Well Seal
- Inadequate Well Cap
- Poor Siting and Landscaping
- Poor Septic Systems
- Hazardous Material Storage
- Poor maintenance practices
- Lack of Backflow Protection
- Poor Manure Management



## Shock Chlorinating Your Well





#### You Will Learn

- How to disinfect a contaminated well
- A preventative maintenance measure to control biofouling
- See the fact sheet Shock Chlorinating Your Well (Issue 3)





#### When To Shock Chlorinate

- Immediately after installing a new well
- Whenever you repair or replace your well, pump or distribution system
- Following contamination by flood water
- Following change in water clarity, colour, odour or taste
- When lab tests show coliform bacteria in water
- When slime is present in toilet tank
- Every year, to prevent biofouling

#### Risk ...

- More chlorine is not better ... ineffective, corrosive, etc.
- On older, poorly maintained wells:
  - loosening of rust and deposits may result in leaks in the distribution system
  - Shock chlorination may not be effective without *prior* professional cleaning by a licensed water well contractor



#### **Dosage and Types of Chlorine**

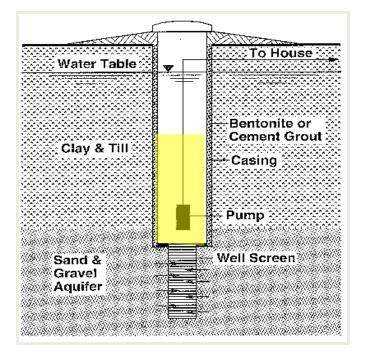
- Dosage 200 mg/L chlorine solution
- Liquid
  - Household bleach 5.25% sodium hypochlorite
  - Industrial strength 12% sodium hypochlorite
  - Limited shelf life
- Pellets, granular or powder
  - 65 to 75% calcium hypochlorite

Treatment results are the same if proportionally the same amount of chlorine is used

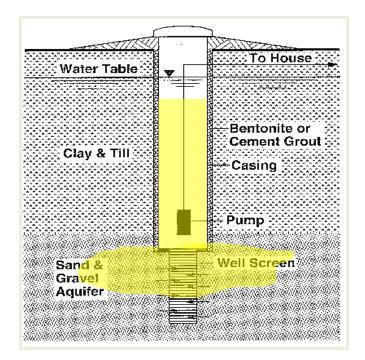


#### **Methods of Shock Chlorination**

1. Simple Chlorination



#### 2. Bulk Displacement



**Poor Results** 

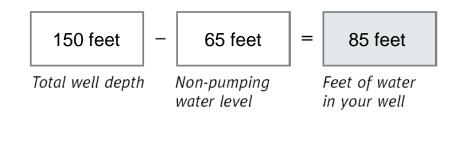
#### **Much Better Results!**

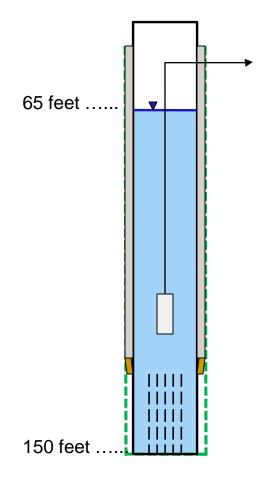
 The latest version of Water Wells That Last (WWTL) was updated to reduce the concentration of chlorine from 1000 ppm to 200 ppm



#### Step 1:

Calculate depth of standing water in your well



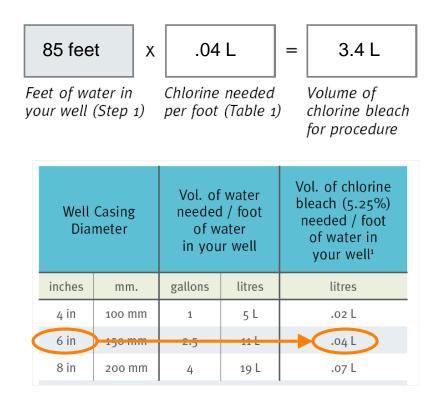


**Step 2:** Calculate volume of water needed to create a solution equal to 2 times the volume of standing water in the well. Place in clean tank.

85 fe Feet of w your well	vater in	Water n	5 gal eeeded t (Table 1		213 gal Volume of water for procedure
	Casing meter	Vol. of needec of w in you	l / foot ater	ble n	l. of chlorine each (5.25%) eeded / foot of water in your well <sup>1</sup>
inches	mm.	gallons	litres		litres
4 in	100 mm	1	5 L		.02 L
6 in	150 mm	2.5	11 L		.04 L
8 in	200 mm	4	19 L		.07 L

#### Refer to Table 1 on fact sheet

**Step 3:** Calculate volume of chlorine needed and add to tank.



#### Refer to Table 1 on fact sheet

**Step 4:** Siphon or pump chlorine solution into well



- Step 5: Open all outlets in water distribution system. Run water until smell chlorine.
- Step 6: Shut off outlets and leave chlorine solution in well and distribution system for 8 to 48 hours
- Step 7: Open an outside outlet and run water until chlorine smell dissipates. Run water away from sensitive plants or landscaping.
   Do not over-pump your well!
- **Step 8:** Run remaining outlets to flush distribution system

### pH Adjusted Chlorination

- When conventional chlorination is not effective
- 1000 mg/L chlorine solution no longer recommended
   Raises pH to 10.5
- Job for a licensed water well contractor
  - Reducing pH will increase the effectiveness of chlorine in high pH waters

Water pH	<b>Biocidal Effect</b>	<b>Oxidative Effect</b>
5.5	100%	0%
8	12%	88%
9	2%	98%
10	< 1%	>99%

#### Effectiveness

- Must be done regularly
- Should prevent premature well failure and avoid costly cleaning or treatment

Shock chlorination is to water wells what regular oil changes are to vehicles... it keeps them operating smoothly for years!!





# Take Home Messages





#### **Keep Good Records and Monitor**

- Water levels
- Water testing reports
- Record of maintenance (chlorination)
- Pump test reports
- Repairs
- Reconstruction details



### **Shock Chlorinate Regularly**

- Required maintenance practice to keep bacteria buildup in check
- Annually or more frequently if needed
- Remember
  - 200 ppm available chlorine
  - Bulk displacement method
  - Do not over-pump your well
- Seek advice from a licensed water well contractor before chlorinating older, unmaintained wells



#### **Test Water Regularly**

- Bacteriological
  - Semi-annually
  - Additional testing for new births, unexplained illnesses, flood events, etc.
- Chemical
  - 2 to 5 years
  - Additional testing if sudden change in water
- Contact local health unit for
  - Sample bottles
  - Instructions
  - Drop off schedule
  - More information
- Keep records

	Date Month / Day / Year	Parameters (microbial, chemical)	NOS SINCECT: Well # medita, it is also important to keep repies of your water well defining in and creatments, if you have more than one well an your property, be keepers		
		(internetal)	(e.g. normaß)	Recommended Treatment (#.g. shock chlorination)	
			1999		
				11 A. 1 August - 1 A. 2 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -	
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#### **Plug Old Wells and Eliminate Well Pits**

 Contact a licensed water well contractor





#### **Evaluation and Reporting**

- Workshop Evaluation Form
- 6 month call back survey
  - Over 90% of workshop participants contacted have followed through on the beneficial activities they intended to do



### **Questions?**

### **CONTACT US**

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