

## Private Well Fact Sheet

As a private well owner, you are in a unique position: You control your own water supply. With this benefit come some responsibilities. You are responsible for protecting your valuable ground water resource as well as your family's health. Occasionally, based on a news report or the color or smell of your water, you may wonder about the safety of your water supply. Testing your water for the most common well contamination, bacteria, is the best course of action. All private drinking water wells should be disinfected and bacteriological tested annually. Bacteriological contamination after disinfection usually indicates an individual well concern. You should contact your well service company and the health department to assist you. If you have an illness that is associated with your drinking water well, you should contact the health department immediately.

**WELLS GONE DRY:** Tampa Bay Water (813) 910-3283, should be contacted to see if you are in an area of replacement.

**PRIVATE WELL PERMITTING:** is done through the Southwest Florida Water Management District (813) 985-7481. They can answer questions regarding ground water quality & geology, and new well drilling permit requirements.

**NEW PRIVATE WELLS:** required by County Ordinance an inspection and certification by the Hillsborough County Health Department. The fee for this service is **\$52.00:** \$40.00 for site visit (maximum of three visits), plus 2 samples at \$6.00 each. Any additional repeat water samples will cost \$6.00 each. A \$40.00 trip fee will be assessed per three sampling visits.

**EXISTING PRIVATE WELLS:** are not regulated. If you would like the Health Department to sample, the fee for this service is \$46.00: \$40.00 for the site visit (maximum of three visits), plus 1 sample at \$6.00.

If you have any other questions regarding your drinking water, you may contact the Health Department at (813) 307-8001.

8/24/00

**Hillsborough County Health Department  
Environmental Health Services**

## Well Disinfection

1. Turn electricity off to well pump.
2. Remove seal or square plug on seal (it may be necessary to puncture rubber seal once plug is removed to allow disinfecting agent to enter well casing) and add one gallon of liquid chlorine (unscented household bleach) into well for each inch of well casing diameter.
3. Flush chlorine down well casing with water and replace seal or plug.
4. Turn electricity on to well pump.
5. Open all faucets in water distribution system until chlorine is detected coming out of each faucet.
6. Turn off all faucets and allow chlorine to remain within the system at least overnight.
7. Flush out entire distribution system until all chlorine is removed from the system. If you are on a septic system, use an outside hose to flush the well out so as not to flood the septic system.
8. Once the system has been flushed out, wait at least 24 hours before having an Environmental Health inspector resample the well water.

### TOP VIEW OF WELL CASING

