

## Saint John Laboratory Services Ltd. Well Shocking Instructions

Well shocking is necessary either when you have had work done on your well, or when you have a laboratory test show that you have bacteria in your well. We do not recommend that you routinely shock your well without a reason to do so.

***NOTE:** If you have a spring-fed well, shocking it will be useless. Spring-fed wells are prone to constant re-contamination. If you wish to continue to use your spring –fed well you must install an UV sterilisation light to ensure safe water.*

Before you begin:

- Before you shock the well, check the cap to make sure it isn't cracked. If the cap is cracked or doesn't seal well, replace the cap before you shock the well.
  - If your first test showed E.coli, or large amounts of Total Coliforms (more than 50), you will need to have a well driller check your well before you shock it, as this indicates a problem with the well.
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***Please follow these instructions carefully so that you do not have to re-shock the well:***

1. Pour a large jug (3.6L size) of unscented bleach directly into the well (please do not pour it down the vent pipe, as this will not properly chlorinate the well). If your well is more than 200 feet deep, you will need to use two jugs of bleach.
2. Open each tap in the house (one at a time) and allow the water to run until you can smell bleach, then turn the tap off. Repeat this for every tap in the house.
3. Allow the water to sit in the system undisturbed for 24 hours. (Don't run any water at all). You may find it easier to stay with a friend or relative for a day, rather than having to do without water.
4. Turn on all the indoor taps and let the water run until you can no longer smell bleach. (You can use a pool-test kit for chlorine if you want to.) Be careful not to run the well dry. Depending on your well, it may take 3 or more days to eliminate all the bleach.
5. Wait a minimum of 48 hours after all the bleach is gone. (We prefer you to wait a week before re-submitting a sample). You may use the water normally during this time, but please continue to boil all water used for drinking, preparing food or brushing your teeth until you have the new test results.
6. Collect a new water sample in a sterile bottle from the lab. Be sure to follow the instructions on the sheet.

If the well still tests positive for bacteria after shocking it properly, you will need to have a well driller come and check the well. If the shock treatment solves the problem, repeat bacteriological testing in three to four months to make sure the shocking was the only treatment needed to fix your well.

Please do not hesitate to call us if you have any questions regarding these instructions (our phone number is 506-635-4938).