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How to Disinfect Your Cistern

What To Use: Liquid chlorine bleach. There are many brand names look for the words “sodium hypochlorite” on the label to determine the percentage. It will be 5.25% or 3.00%.

You will need a 5 gallon batch of solution made up as follows:

5.25% sodium hypochlorite – 1 gallon bleach in 4 gallons of water

3.00% sodium hypochlorite – 2 gallons bleach in 3 gallons of water

This solution formula is based on a cistern having 5,000 gallons of water. If your cistern is larger or smaller you will need to adjust accordingly. (See below to calculate cistern volume.)

Procedure to Follow:

1. Stop the pump
2. Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ of the batch into the cistern or hauled water storage tank.
3. Mix the solution into the water in the cistern or hauled water storage tank.
4. Start the pump. Open all taps and allow the water to run until each tap has a distinct chlorine odor. Close the taps, stop the pump and add the remainder of the batch
5. Allow the water to stand for 12 to 24 hours.
6. Start the pump, open all taps and allow the water to run until the odor of chlorine disappears.
7. Request the Health District collect a sample and test your water before using.

To Determine Total Gallons of Your Cistern or Hauled Water Storage Tank:

Multiply height x width x length = volume in cubic feet

Multiply volume x 7.48 = total gallons