

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Water Disinfection

DRINK IT PURE

Surface water and water from unprotected wells, or wells too close to a sewage disposal system, are likely to be contaminated with intestinal wastes from birds, animals, and man.

Whenever surface water is used for drinking and household purposes, or when any question arises concerning the safety of your water supply, steps should be taken to purify the water. If the water is not clear, the sediment should first be allowed to settle. Then only the clear water should be purified. Either of the two treatment methods listed below may be used:

METHOD I

Bring water to a boil and continue boiling for at least two (2) minutes. Allow it to cool. If the water has a flat taste, pour it back and forth between two clean containers two or three times.

METHOD II

Add one drop of chlorine bleach, such as Chlorox, Purex, (containing 5.25 to 6% available chlorine) to each quart of water.

If water is not clear, add 3 drops to each quart of water.

Mix thoroughly and allow it to stand for 30 minutes before drinking.

If larger quantities of water are to be disinfected with chlorine bleach, use this table for proper dosages:

5.25 - 6% Chlorine Bleach

GALLON(S)	5	10	20	30	40	50
CLEAR WATER	1/4 tsp	1/2 tsp	3/4 tsp	1 tsp	1-1/4 tsp	1-1/2 tsp
CLOUDY WATER	1/2 tsp	1 tsp	1-1/2 tsp	2 tsp	2-1/2 tsp	3 tsp

Key: tsp = teaspoon

(use a stainless steel or plastic measuring device. Silver reacts with chlorine)

Note: If a tablespoon is used for measuring, use 1 tablespoon for each 3 teaspoons.