

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
Stanton Territorial Health Authority
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Cleaning Instructions For Drinking Water Storage Tanks

Cleaning and disinfecting your water storage tank at least once per year will prevent bacterial growth and mold and will help prevent the build-up of sediments. In communities where the water supply has high levels of sediments at certain times of the year, cleaning more often is recommended. A clean water tank helps make water taste better and reduces the risk of illness. The following are instructions for cleaning and disinfecting your water storage tank.

1. Shut off valve to distribution lines and drain all the water from the tank.
2. Wash and remove dirt from inside surfaces of the tank by means of a high-pressure hose or mop. It is unsafe to enter a confined space so **DO NOT ENTER THE TANK.**
3. Drain the wash water and sediment from the bottom of the tank. Remaining sediment can be vacuumed out if access is available.
4. Rinse the inside surfaces of tank with clean, potable water and again drain the wash water.
5. Disinfect the inside surfaces of the tank and the household distribution lines as follows:
 - Add 5 ml of liquid bleach for every liter of water the tank will hold. For example, a 1,000 liter capacity tank will require five (5) liters of bleach.
 - Fill the tank with clean, potable water. Mix well.
 - Open the valve to the distribution line.
 - Run water out of all water taps until you can smell chlorine.
 - Add more potable water to the water tank until it is full.
 - Let the chlorine solution sit in the tank and distribution system for at least four (4) hours or overnight if possible.
6. Drain tank completely and re-fill with fresh potable water.
7. Open the valve to the distribution lines and run water from all the taps until there is no smell of chlorine. You can then resume normal usage.

Please contact your Territorial Environmental Health Officer for more information or if you have other water safety questions.

