



## Water Disinfection Information

**Water from the City of Mercer Island's Emergency Well needs to be disinfected** before it can be used for food preparation, drinking, or for hygiene purposes. This is a necessary precaution because unlike water from your tap, which is thoroughly disinfected before you receive it, water from this well is taken directly from a deep underground aquifer and has not been treated in any way. It is tested regularly and, unlike water from your tap, contains inorganic compounds such as manganese, and may look, taste and smell different.

**Boiling in combination with chlorination** is widely considered the best way to disinfect water. Boil vigorously for 3 minutes. You must let the water cool before you chlorinate it or the chlorine will not work. Regular household bleach is all you need. Do not use scented bleach or bleach with added cleaners. Add 16 drops of bleach to a gallon of water, stir, and let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water doesn't have a bleach odor after this time, add another 16 drops and wait another 15 minutes. If the water still does not have a bleach odor after 15 minutes, the water is not suitable for consumption.

**If your power is out** when you get water from the well, you will be provided with tablets that must be used according to the directions provided. These tablets will help remove sediment and eliminate common micro-organisms such as harmful bacteria.