

PRIVATE WELL DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION INFORMATION

As more rural properties are being developed, owners rely on private water sources to supply domestic water to their residences and places of business. A private water source is domestic water obtained from a private well, spring, lake, cistern or a community water system not under the jurisdiction of the State of Colorado.

Water quality from these private sources is the responsibility of the owner or owners.

Here is some general information for those people who obtain their drinking water from a private source:

It is recommended that private source water be tested at least twice a year for bacterial contamination. Water test kits are available at the office of the Grand County Building Department or the Colorado Department of Health (303) 692-3620 www.cdphe.state.co.us

1. If you suspect that your drinking water is contaminated and you don't have the ability to disinfect, use bottled water for drinking, cooking and dishwashing. DO NOT boil your water to disinfect.
2. A UV(ultra-violet) filter alone is not an effective means of disinfection.
3. A particulate filter AND chlorination are the recommended methods of disinfection.

FILTER:

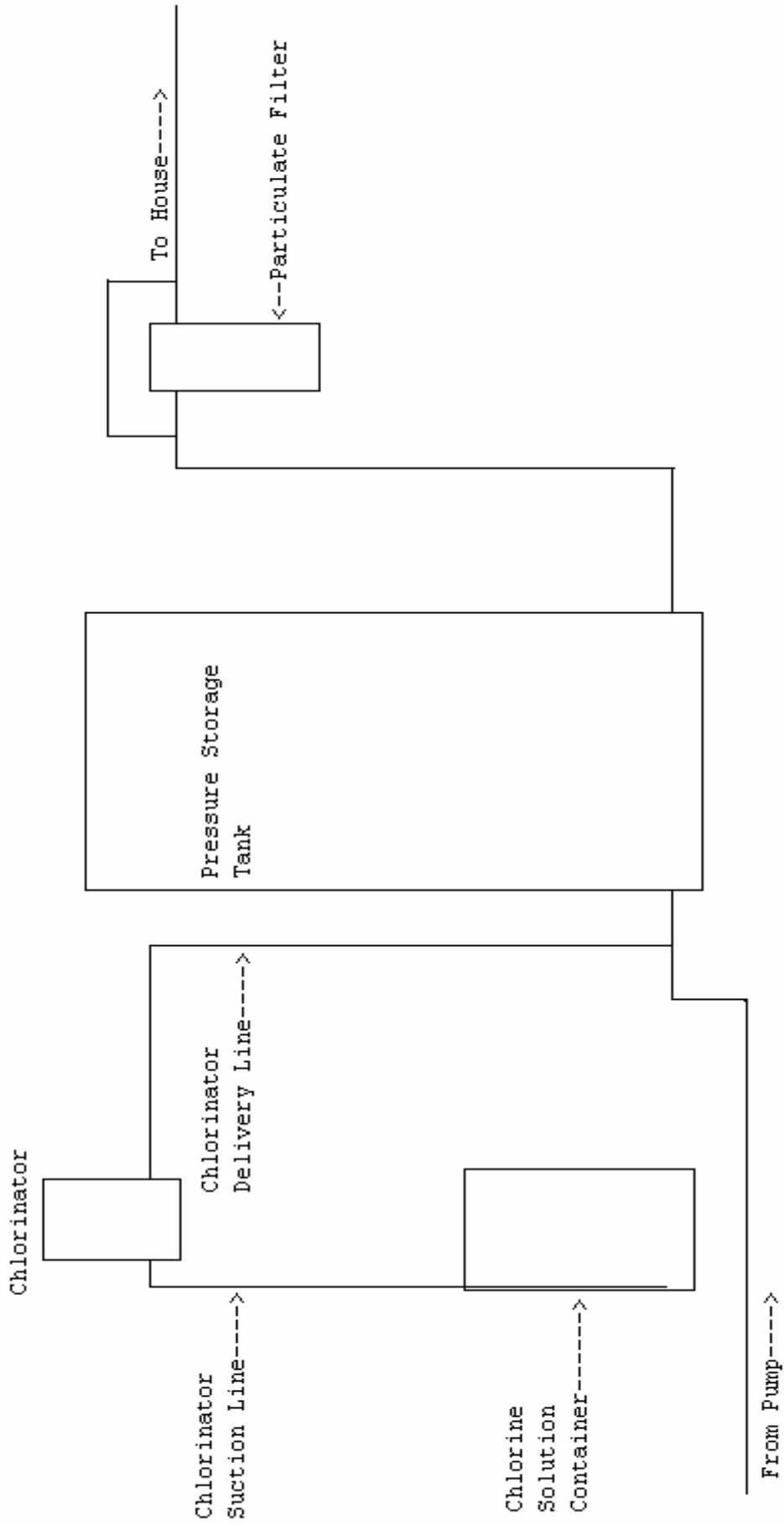
A particulate filter capable of filtering 1 micron particulates and larger is recommended. The particulate filter is generally located on the outlet of the pressure-storage tank.

CHLORINATION:

Disinfection is accomplished most effectively with a chlorine-containing chemical. Any common household liquid bleach that contains approximately 5% "active" ingredient is the most convenient chemical to use.

Introduction into the water system is generally through the use of a pump-type chlorinator.

There are many types of commercially available home chlorinators but most work on the principle of feeding a chlorine solution, (usually the 5% bleach mentioned above.) whenever the well pump operates. These chlorinator units are located on the discharge side of the well pump and before the pressure storage tank. Some chlorinators feed just enough bleach, approximately 1-2 parts per million (p.p.m.) to effect adequate disinfection and yet leave a small residual, 0.2-0.5 p.p.m. of chlorine as a safety factor. Other units feed the bleach at higher doses in the range of 5 to 15 p.p.m. (so-called super-chlorination).



TYPICAL CHLORINATOR/PARTICULATE FILTER LAY-OUT