



GROUP B WATER SYSTEM NEWSLETTER



Did you know?

KPHD is scanning all Group B files. They are available for download at: kitsappublichealth.org/irecordsearch/

Choose a property connected to the water system and click on "Drinking Water System Documents."



Properly screened well vents keep contaminants out of your water system.

**Need help?
Call (360)
728-2235!**

Group B User Agreements

The Health District implemented the Group B User Agreement requirement on **September 4, 2019** to help water systems better manage themselves, stay in compliance, and ensure a reliable supply of drinking water.

How do I know if my water system has a user agreement?

- Review your water system records, the Health District's water system file, and check what documents are recorded to your property's title.

What if we don't have a user agreement?

- The user's/owners of the water system should meet to discuss how the system is owned and managed. Develop an agreement that best represents ownership and management arrangements.
- The agreement must be recorded to all properties served by the water system at the Kitsap County Auditor's Office.
- After recording, don't forget to forward a copy to the Health District so that it can be added to the water system file. Recorded agreements can be sent to ossdw@kitsappublichealth.org
- Resources for Group B user agreements can be found here:
 - <https://kitsappublichealth.org/environment/files/water/GroupBuserAgreementFactsheet.pdf>
 - https://kitsappublichealth.org/environment/files/water_policies/GroupB_user_agreement_resources_final.pdf

Troubleshooting

When routine and repeat water samples test positive for coliform, it is time to troubleshoot to see how bacteria are getting into the system.

1. Check the well cap and casing for openings? Does the vent (if present) face down and is it screened with minimum 24-mesh? Is the conduit sealed?
2. Are the pressure tank(s) operating correctly? Are they waterlogged? Empty? Are the bladders intact and functional?
3. For storage tanks, do the vent and overflow pipes face down and are they screened? Is the access hatch sealed? Have insects gained access?
4. Are there any leaks in the distribution system?
5. Has the system been disinfected and flushed following repairs?

Washington State Department of Health troubleshooting guide:

<https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/drinking-water/water-system-assistance/group-b/operations-and-maintenance>

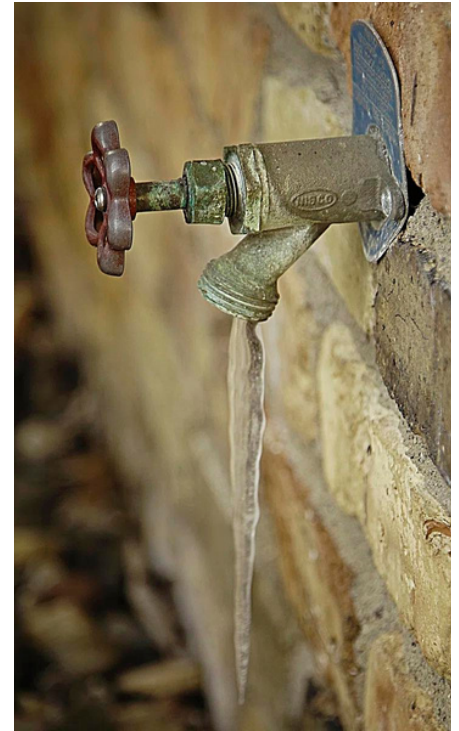
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How to Disinfect Following an Unsatisfactory Sample

When a coliform bacteria water sample comes back with coliform, you will need to take steps to identify the cause. After troubleshooting and repairs, disinfect the system.

1. Start with a new gallon of liquid chlorine bleach (5% sodium hypochlorite) with no additives.
2. Remove the well cap.
3. Add one-half gallon of liquid bleach to the well.
4. Connect a hose to the faucet nearest the well. Not possible? See step 6.
5. Turn on an outside faucet and run water until you smell bleach. Wash down the inner wall of the well with the hose. After that, turn off the faucet, remove the hose and close up the well.
6. Turn on an outside faucet until you smell chlorine, then turn it off.
7. Repeat Step 6 with all outside and inside faucets.
8. Leave the chlorine in the pipes for several hours or overnight.
9. To flush, use outside faucets to run as much water through the system as possible.
10. Flush showers and sinks before use and don't wash colored laundry for a couple of days.
11. Water may be cloudy for a day or two. Chlorine should be gone in about five days.
12. Be sure all chlorine is out of the system before resampling for coliform bacteria. Use a low range chlorine test kit (check pool or aquarium supply stores). A set of two satisfactory coliform samples will restore compliance.



Find a helpful brochure at:
[kitsappublichealth.org/
 /environment/files/drinking_
 water_testing.pdf](https://www.kitsappublichealth.org/environment/files/drinking_water_testing.pdf)

Pressure Tank Troubleshooting

Bladder pressure tanks contain air and water separated by a bladder and pre-charged with air. Typically, they last 5-7 years. If you suspect a problem, troubleshooting may be needed.

1. Check for waterlogged pressure tank problems. Failed tanks must be replaced. Tipping the tank can help identify an empty or waterlogged tank or if you tap on it, it will sound different from a working tank.
2. Check the air charge inside the tank-follow manufacturer's instructions or hire a professional.
3. Adjust the air pressure in the bladder. Again, follow manufacturer's instructions or hire a professional to do this work.



Need more information? Visit Washington State Department of Health's guide here:
doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs/331-342.pdf

**WE'RE HERE
TO HELP!**

- Visit us at 345 6th St., Suite 300 in Bremerton from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday.
- Call us at 360-728-2235 during business hours and ask to speak to the Drinking Water Inspector of the Day.