



Procedures for Emergency Disinfection of Water Trucks

If a water hose, nozzle or other equipment is accidentally contaminated during the course of water delivery and it can be effectively sanitized at the site, considerable time can be saved. The alternative is to return to the base and clean and sanitize the contaminated piece of equipment there.

The most common causes of contamination to hose ends and nozzles are dropping them on the ground or the falling off of a protective cover. The following procedures are designed for these types of contamination.

Equipment Required:

- Household bleach
- Covered, clean and sanitized plastic container at least 8 litres, approximately two gallons, in size or larger.
- Measuring spoon for measuring bleach.
- Personal protective equipment (goggles with side shields, appropriate gloves, appropriate apron or smock)

Procedure:

- Run potable water from the water truck through the hose, nozzle or other contaminated equipment to remove any visible dirt.
- Fill plastic container with potable water from the water truck and thoroughly rinse all visible dirt from the hose end, nozzle or other contaminated equipment.
- Discard the rinse water and thoroughly rinse the plastic container with potable water from the water truck.
- Fill the plastic container with potable water from the water truck to a level that will allow complete immersion of the contaminated equipment. It is a good idea to mark the levels of water that you may be using on your container. This allows direct filling without having to measure the water to determine the amount of chlorine to add.
- Put on appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Add chlorine bleach to create a 200 ppm solution. This requires approximately 1 teaspoon of bleach, or 5 ml, per litre of water. An eight-litre solution will require approximately 8 teaspoons, or 3 tablespoons or 40 mL of household bleach.
- Completely immerse the equipment to be sanitized in the solution and allow a 2-minute contact time.
- The equipment is now ready to use. Note: This procedure is only effective when visible dirt and soil can be completely rinsed off the piece of equipment prior to sanitizing. If the visible soil cannot be removed, the piece of equipment must be properly washed, rinsed and sanitized prior to use.

For more information about emergency disinfection of potable water tanks, contact your local Environmental Health Officer.

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