Surface water and water from unprotected wells, or wells too close to a sewage disposal system, are likely to be contaminated with intestinal wastes from birds, animals, and man. This type of contamination is referred to as fecal coliform bacteria and/or E. Coli.

Whenever surface water is used for drinking and household purposes, or when any question arises concerning the safety of your water supply, action should be taken to purify the water. Inside, you will find a step-by-step guide to disinfecting your drinking water source to ensure you and your family are drinking the safest water possible.

Fecal coliform bacteria.
During this procedure the water will not be drinkable so plan to disinfect late at night or at other times when there is little need for water. Obtain one-half gallon fresh household bleach (unscented) which contains 5-6% sodium hypochlorite. Large diameter or very deep wells may require more chlorine. Do the same for hot water taps and flush toilets until chlorinated. If there are any in-line filters, they should be removed, and replaced with new filters after the disinfection is completed. (Carbon filters are notorious for breeding bacteria.)

Hold the chlorine in the pipes for a minimum of two (2) hours, preferably overnight.

Let the water at each tap flush out the chlorine solution until you can no longer smell it at any of the taps. Your well and distribution system should now be disinfected.

Follow-up sampling should be done after all trace of chlorine is gone to insure that the disinfection procedure was successful.

If there is a softener, it should be by-passed before disinfecting the plumbing. Contact the manufacturer or distributor for the correct method for disinfecting the softener.

Please read all the instructions before proceeding.