

ALPINE LAKES RANCH WATER COMPANY, INC.

P. O. BOX 3220

PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO 81147

Cistern Use Notification

The Water Quality Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment requires the following notification on a continuing basis for users of cisterns.

If the homeowner regularly uses their cistern and has been away for an extended time, or they are not routinely using their individual cistern, then it is recommended that before they use their cistern:

- a. The homeowner should run cold water at a faucet for at least five minutes, and then take a sample of cold water and check to see if a Chlorine Residual is present. If the test reveals that "chlorine is present", assume the water is OK for drinking and cooking purposes.

The homeowner can add 8 oz. of regular chlorine household bleach per 1800 gallons per month while away (DO NOT use "fresh" scent or "lemon" scent) to eliminate bacteria.

- b. If the homeowner does not sample for a Chlorine Residual or a sample test reveals that "chlorine is not present", then:
 1. DO NOT use the water for drinking or cooking purposes.
 2. Directly chlorinate the 1800 gallon cistern with 1-2 cups of regular chlorine bleach. DO NOT use "fresh" scent or "lemon" scent.
 3. Open a faucet on the system. Run until chlorine odor is detected at that faucet. Then do the same with all the faucets. Allow the chlorine solution to remain in the cistern and household pipes for 24 hours or at least over-night.
 4. Flush the chlorine out the next day by running water onto the ground outdoors until the odor and taste of chlorine has disappeared. DO NOT run this chlorinated water into your sewage disposal septic system.
 5. Allow the cistern to fill with fresh potable water.
 6. Assume water is OK for drinking and cooking unless notified by Alpine Lakes Water Co.

To provide water for drinking and cooking before the household system has been fully treated:

- a. Use bottled water, or,
- b. Boil water briskly for 3 minutes.
- c. Disinfect water with household bleach. (8 drops of bleach to each gallon of boiled water)
- d. After adding bleach, cover, shake well and allow to stand 20-30 minutes before use.