

## FRESH WATER TANK CLEANING

1. Drain and flush the fresh-water tank and leave empty. Be sure the water heater is not in the bypass mode. Remove or bypass any water purification equipment and/or filtering cartridges.
2. Mix ¼ cup of liquid household bleach (sodium hypochlorite) solution with one gallon of fresh water.
3. Pour directly into tank or pump into the tank by use of the anti-freeze connection, whatever method you have of getting the solution into the fresh-water tank.
4. Put in one gallon of the above chlorine/water solution for every 15 gallons of fresh-water tank capacity. Top off the tank with fresh water.
5. Turn on the water pump and open every faucet in the RV, including exterior faucets and showerheads.
6. Allow the solution to pump through the system to the toilet, through the water heater, and to every hot and cold faucet at each sink until a mild odor of chlorine is present at every fixture.
7. If present or possible, at the city water inlet, using the eraser end of pencil, push in on the check valve spring, allowing the solution to pump out through the city water inlet until the chlorine odor is detected in the discharge.
8. Close all the faucets and turn off the water pump.
9. Allow the chlorine solution to stand in the system for four hours. This will chlorinate and disinfect the system, including the fresh-water tank, the water heater, the faucets, the complete piping system, and all fittings to a residual level of 50 ppm (parts per million).
10. At four hours, drain and flush the system with fresh water once again. Once drained and flushed, your fresh-water tank should be ready to use again. **Do not allow the chlorinated solution to stand for more than four hours in the fresh-water system. This is to avoid damage to delicate plumbing components found in some water pumps and to prevent permeating any plastic piping.**

If a 100 ppm residual concentration is required or desired, use ½ cup of bleach instead of ¼ cup per gallon in mixing the solution and let stand for at least one hour, but not more than two hours. Do not exceed two hours for the same reason listed in Step 10 above.

The above process is the approved method to be sure bacteria are effectively eliminated. This process should be performed after any long period of nonuse or storage, or whenever stale or distasteful water is experienced. If your water tastes of chlorine all the time, it may be that a previous disinfecting solution was too strong or allowed to stand too long, e.g., all day or overnight before being drained and flushed. If so, you can try one quart of distilled vinegar for every 5 gallons of fresh-water capacity. Then pump through the system as described above and let it stand overnight. Then fully flush the system until you are satisfied with the taste and smell.

Source: FMCA's House Calls with RV Doctor Gary Bunzer