**Disinfection Procedures for Drinking Water**

There are three basic procedures for disinfecting water:

1. **Boiling**

Boiling is the safest method of disinfecting water. Bring water to a rolling boil for at least two minutes, keeping in mind some water will evaporate. Boiled water will taste better if you put oxygen back into it by pouring the water from one container to another several times.

1. **Disinfectant Tablets**

These tablets are available at most sporting goods or drug stores. Follow directions on the package. Usually one tablet is enough for one quart of water. The dose should be doubled for cloudy water.

1. **Bleach Disinfectant**

Liquid household bleach can be used if the label lists sodium hypochlorite as the only active ingredient and there is no perfume (such as "lemon‑scent") in the bottle. Add bleach according to the table below, stir, and let stand for 30 minutes. If the water does not taste and smell of chlorine after 30 minutes, add another dose and let stand another 15 minutes.

***Note****: Do not use this method to disinfect water in a waterbed. Use a manufacturer provided disinfectant that will not harm the plastic.*

**AMOUNT OF WATER CLEAR WATER CLOUDY WATER**

1 quart 2 drops 4 drops

1 gallon 8 drops 16 drops

5 gallons 1/2 teaspoon 1 teaspoon