

Disinfecting water storage tanks

The following information will help you disinfect water storage tanks where you may suspect that there some water contamination has occurred.

The recommended disinfectant is plain (not scented), liquid (not gel) bleach which should have *5% Sodium Hypochlorite* written on the label somewhere.

Janola, one of the most well-known bleach brands, shouldn't be used.

Manufacturer Pental Products states all Janola liquid bleaches contain surfactants and aren't suitable for treating drinking water tanks.

Alternatives that manufacturers have advised can be used include:

- Budget Bleach Regular and Budget Bleach Extra Strength. **Note:** Budget Bleach Lemon shouldn't be used because it contains lemon fragrance.
- Clor-o-Gen bleach

If the product's label is not clear about what has been added to the bleach, do not use the product for treating drinking water tanks.

The following table and quantities will give an acceptable chlorine concentration.

Tank volume (litres)	Millilitres (mL) of bleach
500	33
1000	67
2000	133
5000	333
10000	667
20000	1333

You can add the quantities if the volume is in between those given:

For example: if you had a 3000 litre tank then you would look on the table and take the bleach quantity for 2000 litres plus the quantity for 1000 litres (which is 133 mLs and 67 mLs) - adding those two quantities of bleach together gives a total of 200mLs of bleach needed to treat the 3000 litre tank.

To calculate the volume of your tank, the following formula may be helpful:

- Square tank:
Length x width x depth of water x 1000 = number of litres
- Circular tank:
 $3.142 \times \text{radius} \times \text{radius} \times \text{depth of water} \times 1000 = \text{number of litres}$

Note: all measurements are in metres.

Please make sure that you mix the chlorine into the tank water as best as you can, using a clean stick or other method.