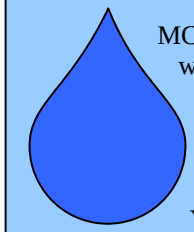
INTRODUCTION

Mohave County Environmental Health Division (MCEHD) does not regulate water quality, however, would like to provide this information regarding what type of holding/storage tank to use for drinking water and some basic guidelines on cleaning and maintaining a drinking water storage tank.

SOURCE OF WATER



MCEHD recommends utilizing a public water system or other approved community water system for the water supply source. Contact the public water system that will provide you with drinking water. You may want to ask for their most recent water quality report to ensure the water system is current with drinking water requirements. The public water system company must provide a consumer confidence report to their customers. If you are purchasing water you should ask the company to include you in the yearly mailing list.

EQUIPMENT PREPARATION

Tanks used for holding and storage of water should be of an acceptable type. ***Use tanks previously used ONLY for hauling water or food grade materials. MCEHD RECOMMENDS NOT USING TANKS THAT HAVE PREVIOUSLY HAULED ANY OTHER MATERIALS EXCEPT FOOD OR WATER.*** Many other materials can be absorbed into the tank over time and eventually leach back out into your clean drinking water which may be dangerous.

NOTE: When transporting tanks make sure the tank is properly sealed to avoid insects, dust and debris being allowed into the tank.

All tanks should be visually inspected, scrubbed, flushed, and disinfected before storing water as follows:

1. Visually inspect the tank to ensure the integrity of the tank.

2. Tanks previously used for HOLDING/STORING WATER should be scrubbed, flushed and disinfected with chlorine as follows:

- Scrub tank to remove all rust and sediment with water containing 200 parts per million (ppm) chlorine. Chlorine bleach may be used as follows:

***200ppm = 2.5 ounces (1/3 cup) of chlorine bleach for every 5 gallons of water used in the solution.*

***All hoses, pumps and other equipment which will be in contact with the water should be disinfected in the same manner. After the tank and equipment has been scrubbed, everything should be rinsed.*

- After scrubbing and rinsing the tank fill it with water containing 50 ppm chlorine for disinfection purposes. The chlorinated water should stand in the tank for at least 30 minutes. 50 ppm can be achieved as follows:

***50ppm = 2 quarts of chlorine bleach for every 500 gallons of water used to fill the tank.*

***All hoses, pumps, and other equipment which will be in contact with the water should be disinfected in the same manner.*

- When you are ready to begin storing water the chlorinated water should be drained and rinsed from the tank.

3. Tanks previously used for HAULING FOOD GRADE MATERIALS should be scrubbed, flushed and disinfected with an emulsifying detergent and chlorine as follows:

- Scrub and flush the tank and equipment with warm water.

- Clean with the injection of an approved (written on the manufacturer's label) emulsifying detergent until the tank and equipment are clean:

    a) Use the amount specified on the manufacturer's label
    b) Maintain a minimum temperature of 140 degrees
    c) Change the location of the nozzle to continuously keep the interior wet from top to bottom until the tank is clean.

- Rinse the tank thoroughly using warm water.

- Fill the tank for disinfection purposes with water containing 50 ppm chlorine (described in part 2b) for a minimum of 30 minutes. All hoses, pumps, and other equipment which will be in contact with the water should be disinfected in the same manner.

- When you are ready to begin storing water the chlorinated water should be drained and rinsed from the tank.

NOTE: Aluminum tanks, and tanks having plastic or other types of organic coatings, may be affected by heat or alkaline materials. When these types of tanks are to be cleaned using emulsifying detergents, the manufacturer of these tanks should be contacted and their recommendations followed.

4. When the tank is filled with water a free chlorine residual should be maintained between 0.5 and 1.0 ppm. A “DPD” test kit is recommended for monitoring free chlorine levels. These test kits are available at swimming pool and spa supply stores.

   ***1 ppm chlorine = 2.5 ounces (1/3 cup) of chlorine bleach for every 1000 gallons of water used to fill the tank.*

NOTE: One milligram per liter (mg/L) is equal to one part per million (ppm).

Mohave County Department of Public Health
Count On Us.

This document is based on “Oregon Health Services – Drinking Water Program, Drinking Water HaulingGuidelines”, April 2003. Used with permission.
www.dhs.state.or.us/publichealth/dwp/index.cfm

HAULED WATER GUIDELINES

Guidelines for water source and equipment preparation for homeowners