

Cleaning Food-Grade Water Tanks

Suggested Cleaning Procedure for Clean Water Holding Tanks and Containers

All clean water holding tanks and containers used to transport or store water are required to be sanitized between uses. The following steps are a suggested way of cleaning tanks and containers.



- 1.** Completely drain the water tank/container.
- 2.** Drain the water heater.
- 3.** Fill the tank/container halfway with clean water. Use a solution of 1/4 cup bleach for every 15 gallons of water that the tank/container holds. Add the necessary amount of bleach to the water in the tank/container.
- 4.** Fill the rest of the tank/container with clean water.
- 5.** Turn on the water pump. Turn on all faucets in the unit until you smell bleach in the water.
- 6.** Turn off the water pump.
- 7.** Leave the solution in the tank/container for 12-24 hours. If desired, drive the unit around the block to agitate the solution in the tank/container.
- 8.** Turn on the water pump. Turn on all the faucets in the unit until the tank/container is drained.
- 9.** Drain the water heater.
- 10.** Fill the tank with clean water, run the faucets until the tank/container is drained. Drain the water heater.
- 11.** Repeat step 10 until the smell of bleach is gone and the tank/container is thoroughly rinsed out.
- 12.** Leave the tank empty and stored in a clean, dry area until your next event.



Forsyth County
Department of Public Health

Promoting Health, Improving Lives
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REV 08/2017