

# Potable Water Haulers – Cleaning and Disinfecting Tanks

All Albertans need access to potable water, meaning water that is safe to drink. To ensure the water you supply to homes and business is potable, water tanks and equipment must be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Cleaning removes any sludge or sediment buildup inside the tank. Disinfecting reduces the number of microbes inside tanks and equipment to safe levels.

Tanks and equipment that have transported non-food products in the past are **NOT APPROVED** to transport potable water.

## When to Clean and Disinfect Tanks and Equipment

Be sure to clean and disinfect your tanks:

- at least twice per year.
- any time you know the tank or equipment has been contaminated.  
Examples include after tank repairs or if the water source you are delivering is under a Boil Water Advisory.
- if you have failed bacteriological water test from the tank or equipment.

## How to clean and Disinfect Tanks and Equipment

1. Drain the water from the tank.
2. Wash inside surfaces of the tank by means if a high pressure hose (i.e. steam).
3. Drain water from the bottom of the tank to waste.
4. Rinse inside surfaces of the tank with potable water and drain to waste.
5. Disinfect the inside surfaces/attachments of tank, outlets and equipment as follows:
  - Fill the tank with potable water.
  - Add 8 Litres of household bleach to every 1000 gallons of water and mix well to ensure all surfaces come into contact with disinfecting solutions (i.e. 100ppm chlorine).
  - Run water from the tank to hoses until the smell of chlorine is detected in the water.
  - Close off water hoses and let the chlorine sit in the water tank and hose systems for a minimum of 20 minutes contact time.
  - Drain tank and hose systems to waste taking precautions not to contaminate disinfected components.

**For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.**

Edmonton Main Office  
Calgary Main Office  
Lethbridge Main Office

780-735-1800  
403-943-2288  
403-388-6689

Grande Prairie Main Office  
Red Deer Main Office  
www.ahs.ca/eph

780-513-7517  
403-356-6366

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