



**BRISTOL-BURLINGTON HEALTH DISTRICT**  
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## **Sanitizing the Clean (potable) Water Storage Tank**

The water that serves the sinks (hand wash, food prep, 3-bay, etc.) in your **food truck, trailer or cart** must be of equal quality as potable (drinkable) water from a public supply or from a commercially processed and packaged source.

Bacteria and other microorganisms can still survive, grow and multiply in clean water storage containers if the conditions are right.

Please comply with the following:

- Always fill the tank with water from an approved source (public water, bottled water, etc.). Never use water from a private well or from a source that is not approved.
- Always use a clean and approved hose. These hoses are clearly marked for “Drinking Water” or “Potable Water” use and can be purchased at camper and boating supply retailers.
- Drain (empty) the clean water tank if not in use for more than 3 days.
- If the water in the clean water tank remains stagnant (unused) for longer than 3 days:
  1. Drain the tank
  2. Sanitize the tank (see below)
  3. Flush the tank (see below)
  4. Refill the tank with clean water on the day of the event.

**Sanitizing method:** Depending on the amount of water (gallons) in the clean water storage tank, add (1) one cup of liquid unscented bleach (5.25% Sodium hypochlorite) for every 10 gallons of water that is in your clean water tank. For example: for 50 gallons of water, add 5 cups of bleach. Try to add the bleach while filling the tank to assure the bleach is mixing with the water. Then turn on your water pump and run all the faucets until you smell bleach in the water from each faucet. This will allow the bleach to come in contact with all of the water lines, hoses and fixtures.

Then shut off the faucets and turn off the water pump and leave the solution sitting in the tank and distribution system overnight.

The next day, turn the water pump back on and run all the faucets until the tank is drained. Then, refill the clean water tank with fresh water to flush the bleach out. You may need to refill the tank with fresh water more than once to remove any excess bleach. Repeat flushing until the odor of bleach has dissipated. Keep the tank empty until the day of the event.

Never leave the clean water tank uncovered or uncapped. Insects, rodents, dust or other debris may enter the tank and contaminate it.

If you have any questions, please contact the BBHD.