

## **Guidelines for Cleansing of Fresh Water Tanks**

Registered agents or management offices should cleanse the fresh water tanks once every 3 months.

1. Display notice at conspicuous locations of the building to notify all the affected occupiers the date and the duration of water supply suspension. The notice should also contain reminders on what the occupants should do before and after water tank cleansing including keeping all taps closed until cleansing of the internal plumbing system has been completed.
2. Water tank is classified as confined space. To safeguard the safety of the working staff, it is required to ensure that the cleansing procedures comply with the relevant statutory requirements for safety, such as the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Confined Spaces) Regulations, Cap 59AE. Attention should be paid to the safety measures and requirements on the aspects of lighting, ventilation, gas and personal protective equipment.
3. Empty the water tank(s) through the washout pipe(s) and/or drain(s).
4. Thoroughly cleanse and scrub the water tank(s) (including the bottom, internal walls, internal roof and bottom of the water tank cover) and the inlet/outlet pipes with fresh water. It is recommended to scrub manually or to use high pressure jet for cleansing.
5. Drain away the dirty water through the washout pipe(s) and/or drain(s) of the water tank(s) after cleansing, and remove the sediments and other impurities from the bottom of the water tank(s).
6. Scrub the water tank(s) thoroughly with a solution containing not less than 50 mg/L of chlorine<sup>1</sup>. Proper personal protective equipment such as gloves should be used during preparation of the solution.
7. Rinse and scrub the water tank(s) thoroughly with fresh water to remove the residual chlorine water and sediments.
8. Drain away the rinsing water through the washout pipe and/or drain of the water tank(s).
9. Refill the water tank(s) with fresh water.
10. Notify affected occupiers to flush the taps for 2 minutes after resumption of supply before using water.

### **Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> For bleaching powder containing about 33% of available chlorine in weight, a 50 mg/L chlorine solution can be prepared by mixing 15 grams of bleaching powder in 100 L of water. Bleaching solution with active chlorine in the range of 5% (50,000

mg/L) to 10% (100,000 mg/L) available in market can also be used for preparation of 50 mg/L of chlorine solution. A 50 mg/L chlorine solution can be prepared by mixing 100 mL of 5% bleaching solution or 50 mL of 10% bleaching solution in 100 L of water.

<https://www.wsd.gov.hk/en/faqs/index.html#12>