SANITIZING YOUR MOBILE FOOD UNIT'S FRESHWATER SYSTEM

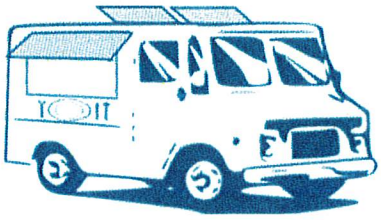
A freshwater system requires ongoing care and preventative maintenance to ensure that each component remains functioning and clean so the entire system can deliver a consistent flow of fresh and safe water. According to the *Illinois Food Code* (Chapter 5, Section 304.11), a water tank, pump, and hoses shall be flushed and sanitized before being placed in service after construction, repair, modification, and for periods of non-use.

NOTE: Check the manufacturer's specifications or technical sheets for specific instructions on sanitizing your freshwater system. Otherwise, consider disinfecting the freshwater system as follows:

1. Use the following method to determine the amount of unscented household bleach needed to disinfect the tank (Note: follow the precautions as printed on the label of the bleach container).
   - Multiply tank gallon capacity by .25; the result is the ounces of bleach needed to disinfect the tank. For example, 20-gallon tank = 5 ounces of bleach.
2. Mix the bleach with water in a pourable container such as a gallon jug. If the tank is filled through a pressurized fitting, carefully pour the bleach into the hose before attaching the hose to the water supply.

WARNING:
- **Do not mix bleach with ammonia.**
- **Do not recontaminate the water supply with unclean hands or hoses.**

3. Pour the bleach solution into the tank and fill the tank with fresh water.
4. Open ALL faucets (hot and cold) allowing the water to run until the odor of bleach is detected. The freshwater systems must have four (4) hours of contact time to disinfect completely. Doubling the solution concentration allows for a shorter contact time one (1) hour.
5. When the contact time is complete, drain the tank. Refill the tank and flush the freshwater system once or twice until the bleach odor has decreased. The residual bleach odor and taste is not harmful if the correct concentration for the size of the tank was used as directed in Step 1.



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