

SANITIZING A MOBILE FOOD UNIT'S FRESH WATER SYSTEM

FDA FOOD CODE 2017

5-304.11 SYSTEM FLUSHING AND SANITIZATION

“A WATER TANK, PUMP, AND HOSES SHALL BE FLUSHED AND SANITIZED BEFORE BEING PLACED IN SERVICE AFTER CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR, MODIFICATION, AND PERIODS OF NONUSE”

2021 TEXAS FOOD ESTABLISHMENT RULES

228.221. MOBILE FOOD UNITS

(1) GENERAL. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS PARAGRAPH AND IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY:

- a. MAY IMPOSE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO PROTECT AGAINST HEALTH HAZARDS RELATED TO THE CONDUCT OF THE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT AS A MOBILE OPERATION;

(8) MFU DRINKING WATER TANK SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF FOOD CODE 5-303.13

- a. “FILL HOSE AND WATER HOLDING TANK SHALL BE LABELED AS “POTABLE WATER””

- b. “DRINKING WATER IN A MFU HOLDING TANK SHALL BE TESTED FOR CONTAMINATION BY SAMPLING UPON REQUEST BY THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY”

(c) OUTDOOR SERVICING AREA AND OPERATIONS

- (e) “POTABLE WATER SERVICING EQUIPMENT SHALL BE INSTALLED AND BE STORED AND HANDLED IN A WAY THAT PROTECTS THE WATER AND EQUIPMENT FROM CONTAMINATION”

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STEPS FOR SANITIZING:

1. Drain and flush out the fresh water tank
2. Remove any water purification equipment and water filter cartridges
3. Use ¼ cup of liquid household bleach (sodium hypochlorite) for every 15 gallons of freshwater tank capacity
4. 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 city water entry. **WARNING-DO NOT MIX BLEACH WITH AMMONIA.**
5. Pour the bleach solution into the tank and fill the tank with fresh water.
6. Drive around the block to cause the bleach solution to slosh all over the inside of the fresh water tank
7. Open all the faucets (hot and cold) allowing the water to run until the odor of bleach is detected. Now the freshwater system must sit to let the disinfectant work. The freshwater system must have four (4) hours of contact time to disinfect completely. Doubling the solution concentration allows for a shorter contact time of one (1) hour.
8. When the contact time is completed, drain the tank. Refill the tank and flush the freshwater system until the bleach odor has decreased. The residual bleach odor is not harmful if the correct concentration for the size of the tank was used.