

FLOOD FACTS

Cleaning Your Well After Flood



Flooding can contaminate well water, making it unsafe to drink.



If your well is flooded, do not drink, wash or use well water in any way until:

- Well disinfection steps are complete and well is thoroughly flushed.
- Water sample test results show water is safe to drink.



Turn off power to the well area before clearing away debris:

- Inspect electric connections for insulation breaks and moisture damage.
- A qualified electrician or plumber may need to check the equipment and wiring system.
- Check area around the well for other electrical and physical hazards. Wear thick rubber-soled and waterproof shoes/boots to protect against electrical shock.



If you smell gas or other fumes around the well area, do not turn on electrical equipment. Allow well to vent. If the smell doesn't go away, call a reputable Water Treatment Contractor.

- Flood waters may contaminate your well with oil, gas, pesticides, fertilizers or other chemicals. Be aware your well may also need additional chemical treatment.



Disinfect the well:

- Follow this Public Health Ontario guide: publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/well-water-testing/well-disinfection-tool
It includes a tool to calculate proper chlorine solution levels.
- Wear proper gloves, goggles and aprons to avoid chemical burns. Work in well-ventilated areas.



After disinfecting the well, wait at least two days before testing your well water. This allows any chlorine to be fully flushed from the water system. In the meantime:

- Use another water source (like bottled water).



After two days, take a well water sample and submit for testing:

- If the test results are good, the water is considered safe to drink: Be extra certain by taking two more well water samples for testing – one week apart. Continue to test your well water at least twice per year to be sure it's safe.
- If test results show high levels of coliform or E. coli, disinfect your well again. Resample if tests still show bacteria are present, call the Health Unit for help.