

DISASTER QUICK TIPS: FLOODED WELLS

Well Water Safety

A flooded water well can make well water unsafe. Only use water that you know is safe for these needs:

- Drinking;
- Making baby formula;
- Making ice;
- Brushing teeth;
- Washing hands;
- Washing dishes;
- Cooking; and
- Showering or bathing.

Use water from a flooded well to flush toilets if needed.

Safe Water

When water wells are flooded, **the safest water is bottled water from stores or your local emergency center.**

Local officials can tell you how to get safe water after an emergency.

Flush and Disinfect a Flooded Well

Water from a flooded well usually is not safe until you take the following steps:

1. First, flush the well and plumbing system;
2. Disinfect the well and plumbing system; and
3. Last, test the water for safety.

Your local health department or the Minnesota Department of Health has a fact sheet on disinfecting flooded wells. The Minnesota Department of Health has well water experts to talk to if you have questions.

Licensed well drillers or pump installers also clean and disinfect wells. Check the Yellow Pages under "Well Drilling and Service."

Testing Flooded Wells

After the well and plumbing has been flushed and disinfected, test the water to see if it is safe.

Contact your local health or emergency officials to get a well test kit.

Note: MDH has detailed fact sheets on these topics. See back page.



Environmental Health Division
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625 Robert Street North,
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MDH Environmental Health Contacts:**Asbestos**

Asbestos and Lead Compliance: 651-201-4620

Web Site: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/asbestos

Carbon Monoxide and Mold

MDH Indoor Air Quality: 651-201-4601 or 800-798-9050

Email: health.indoorair@state.mn.us

Web Site: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air

Cleaning Up and Food Safety

MDH Food, Beverage and Lodging: 651-201-4500

Email: health.foodlodging@state.mn.us

Web Site: www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety

Drinking Water**Public Water**

MDH Drinking Water Protection: 651-201-4700

Email: health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us

Web Site: www.health.state.mn.us/water

Wells and Well Water

MDH Well Management: 651-201-4600 or 1-800-383-9808

Email: health.wells@state.mn.us

Web Site: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells

MDH Environmental Health Division Emergency Program Contacts:

www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/contactus.htm

MDH Environmental Health Flood information Web site:

www.health.state.mn.us/floods

If you require this document in another format such as large print, Braille, or cassette tape, contact 651-201-5000 or 1-800-657-3908.
For deaf or hard of hearing TTY: 651-201-5797



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