

Well Water & Flood Events

FAST FACTS

15%

of people in the US get their drinking water from a private well

\$2.6 BILLION

The cost of extreme flooding in the Midwest in March 2019 that impacted thousands of people



1 in 5 of the 2,100 wells sampled in a US Geological Survey had contaminants that were above safe drinking water standards

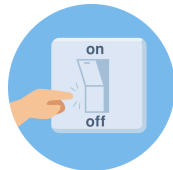


Flooding events like this can contaminate your well water, making it unsafe to drink.

BEFORE A FLOOD



Keep extra drinking water in case your well water gets contaminated.



Turn off the power to your well pump and unplug any equipment to lower the risk of shock.



Turn off the main plumbing shut-off valve inside your house



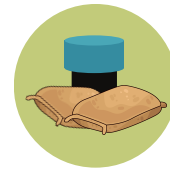
Make sure the ground around your well slopes away so that runoff doesn't get into the well and contaminate the water.



Regularly pump your septic tank and keep the septic system in good shape to stop extra contamination from getting into the well.



Don't store chemicals near the well and don't put any chemicals in the septic system.



Make sure the well cap is above ground and tightly sealed to keep out contamination. If you have time, put sandbags around the well and wrap it with strong plastic and duct tape.

ABOUT US

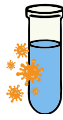
Our mission is to help farmers and their communities in the Central States and beyond. We do research, teach, and share information to find out how injuries and illnesses happen. We also create and test ways to prevent them. Our goal is to make sure everyone in the farming community stays healthy and safe.



DURING A FLOOD



Follow emergency and evacuation orders for your area.



Assume your water is contaminated and do not drink any until a certified lab tests it.



Stay away from flood water because it is probably contaminated.

AFTER A FLOOD

✓ Check the area around the well and call a licensed professional if you see any damage.

✓ Clear any debris around the wellhead and turn the electricity back on if there's no damage.

✓ Bypass any water filters or softeners without their own shut-off valves to prevent contamination. Run the water inside until it runs clear.

✓ Test the water for coliform bacteria, E. coli bacteria, and nitrate to make sure it's safe to drink.

✓ Follow the lab's advice if your water is contaminated and needs chlorine shock disinfection.



For a list of licensed well contractors in Nebraska, scan the QR code or visit go.unmc.edu/nebraska-well-contractors



For a list of licensed well contractors in Iowa, scan the QR code or visit go.unmc.edu/iowa-well-contractors



The state of Iowa provides free water testing after flooding. Scan the QR code or visit go.unmc.edu/iowa-well-water-testing



The state of Nebraska provides testing for a small fee. Scan the QR code or visit go.unmc.edu/nebraska-water-test-kits

RESOURCES




EPA:
Private
Drinking
Water Wells



NEHA:
Floods, Private
Wells, and
Natural Disasters



CDC:
Guidelines for Personal
Hygiene during a Water
Emergency

402-552-3394
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 go.unmc.edu/cs-cash

UNMC College of Public Health
984388 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-4388



@unmccscash