

## Quick Tips: Flooded Wells

### Well Water Safety

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
- Showering and 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. Flush the well and plumbing system
2. Disinfect the well and plumbing system
3. Test the water for safety

Your local health department or the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has a fact sheet on disinfecting flooded wells. MDH 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.**

## MDH Environmental Health Flood Information

Website: [www.health.state.mn.us/floods](http://www.health.state.mn.us/floods)

## MDH Environmental Health Contacts

[www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/contacts](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/contacts)

### MDH DISTRICT OFFICES

- Bemidji 218-308-2100
- Duluth 218-302-6166
- Fergus Falls 218-332-5150
- Mankato 507-344-2700
- Marshall 507-476-4220
- Metro 651-201-4500
- Rochester 507-206-2700
- St. Cloud 320-223-7300

## Asbestos

### Asbestos and Lead Compliance:

651-201-4620

Email: [health.asbestos-lead@state.mn.us](mailto:health.asbestos-lead@state.mn.us)

Websites: [www.health.state.mn.us/asbestos](http://www.health.state.mn.us/asbestos)

[www.health.state.mn.us/lead](http://www.health.state.mn.us/lead)

## Carbon Monoxide and Mold

### MDH Indoor Air Quality:

651-201-4601 or 800-798-9050

E-mail: [health.indoorair@state.mn.us](mailto:health.indoorair@state.mn.us)

Website: [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air)

## Cleaning-up and Food Safety

### MDH Food, Pools, and Lodging:

651-201-4500

E-mail: [health.foodlodging@state.mn.us](mailto:health.foodlodging@state.mn.us)

Website: [www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety](http://www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety)

## Public Drinking Water

### MDH Drinking Water Protection:

651-201-4700

E-mail: [health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us](mailto:health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us)

Website: [www.health.state.mn.us/water](http://www.health.state.mn.us/water)

## Wells and Well Water

### MDH Well Management:

651-201-4600 or 800-383-9808

E-mail: [health.wells@state.mn.us](mailto:health.wells@state.mn.us)

Website: [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells)

*To obtain this information in a different format, call  
651-201-5000 or 1-800-657-3908*

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