

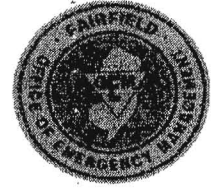
Flood Recovery Information

To all Residents:

The following steps will assist you with flood recovery efforts and cleanup during the recent flood.

- Contact your insurance company first.
- Take pictures of the actual flood damaged areas and debris for your insurance company.
- Upon the President signing the Declaration for State of Emergency, Residents are then to contact FEMA @ 800-621-3362 to register their flood damage.
- FEMA will then set up a field office in the area to file claims and help with assistance and information.
- FEMA personnel will then canvass the area with flyers and information in the flood affected areas as well.
- This information will be posted on Fairfield's website (www.fairfieldnj.org) and on Channel 34 or 43 as it is made available.

TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD RESIDENTAL FLOOD ASSESSMENT FORM



FLOOD DEBRIS CLEAN UP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Residents **MUST** contact their insurance companies first.
2. Residents should take pictures of all damaged areas and debris.
3. Residents **MUST** segregate flood debris (i.e. white metals, carpeting, building materials, refrigerators and air conditioners). *Hazardous materials can be discarded at the next Environmental Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup.*
4. All debris (excluding hazardous waste) is then to be placed at curbside, not in the street.
5. A Damage Assessment Form will be available within the information packets for Residents to fill out. Upon completion and submission of this form to the Engineering Department, debris will then be scheduled to be removed by DPW.
6. Prior to debris pickup, someone from the Engineering Dept. will also come out and take pictures of debris.

No debris will be picked up without receiving a Damage Assessment Form.

**For insurance purposes, Homeowners are not permitted to dump their own debris.*

Residents Name: _____

Property Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone # _____

Residential () Commercial ()

Block _____ Lot _____

Does your home have flood insurance?	Yes ()	No ()
Does house have a basement?	Yes ()	No ()
Was Basement flooded?	Yes ()	No ()
Did water enter living area of house?	Yes ()	No ()
Photos taken of damage?	Yes ()	No ()

Date: _____

Resident Signature: _____

Once this form is filled out return to Fairfield Engineering at 230 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, NJ.

Someone will contact you to schedule an inspection. Thank you



FEMA

NFIP Tips for Filing Your Flood Insurance Claim **POST-HURRICANE INFORMATION FOR POLICY HOLDERS**

If your community has been flooded, and your property or home has suffered flood damage, here's how to file your flood insurance claim.

Contact your agent or insurance company

Call your agent or insurance company as soon as possible to begin the claims process. If possible, have the following information with you when you place your call: (1) the name of your insurance company; (2) your policy number; and (3) a telephone number/e-mail address where you can be reached.

If you can't locate your policy information or need help contacting your insurance company, call 1-800-427-4661 to talk to a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) insurance specialist. They can help you locate your insurance company and connect you directly to your insurance company claims specialist.

When you file your claim, ask for an approximate time frame for when an adjuster will be assigned. If you live in an area where catastrophic damages occurred please be patient, as some of these areas are inaccessible.

Work with your adjuster

An adjuster will be in touch with you as soon as possible and will work with you to calculate the value of the damage and prepare a repair estimate.

Let your agent know if your contact information changes. If you are in a shelter or cannot be easily reached, please provide the name of a relative or point-of-contact who can reach you.

If you are unable to return home, start by making a list of items and appliances in your home that may have been damaged. This will help your adjuster get an accurate picture of your potential loss.

If you are able to return home, the following steps will help with the adjustment process:

- Separate damaged and undamaged items. If you dispose of items, keep a swatch or sample for the adjuster.
- Take photos of any water in the house and damaged personal property.
- Make a list of damaged or lost items (include their age and value where possible) and provide any damage estimates by a contractor to your adjuster.

Important numbers for policyholders

- **Flood insurance questions?** Call 1-800-427-4661 for general flood insurance questions or to locate your flood insurance company or call 1-800-942-4242 for help locating your homeowners and flood insurance company.
- **Need additional aid?** Call 1-800-621-3362 to register with FEMA Disaster Assistance. You may be eligible for additional FEMA and State assistance.

Streamlined claims after Katrina and Rita

- **Advance payments.** Ask your company representative or adjuster about advance payments available to you. If you have contents coverage you may be eligible for an advance check in the range of \$3,000.
- **Waived proof-of-loss.** The NFIP has waived the usual proof-of-loss requirement. Instead, where the policyholder agrees, the claim will be based upon the report by the claims adjuster.
- **Fast-tracked payments for extensive loss.** Talk with your adjuster about how the damage assessment will be completed. In some cases, depending upon the extent of damage to your property, policy limits may be paid without waiting for a site visit. This process may be used when homes have been washed off their foundations, affected for long periods by standing water, or when only pilings or a slab remain.
- **Easier listing of contents.** Your adjuster will assist you in developing a list of damaged contents and appliances. Serial and model numbers are not needed, and a list of contents by major grouping may be submitted.



TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD

230 FAIRFIELD ROAD, FAIRFIELD, NJ 07004-2425

(TEL) 973-882-2700

(FAX) 973-882-0365

Well Disinfection After a Flood

In the event of flood:

The Health Department recommends that in the event of a flood, residents have their private well disinfected. Drilled, driven or bored wells are best disinfected by a well or pump contractor, because it is difficult for the private owner to thoroughly disinfect these wells. However, some homeowners may want or need to disinfect their private well themselves. Please read and follow these instructions if you attempt to disinfect your well without assistance.

Materials Needed:

- One gallon of non-scented household liquid bleach or container of granular/powdered chlorine (the latter may be purchased at a pool supply store)
- Rubber gloves
- Eye protection
- Old clothes
- Funnel

Materials Needed:

- If the well head is visible or at ground surface, remove cap
- Slowly pour one gallon of liquid bleach or three ounces of granular chlorine directly down the well head, into well
- Allow chlorine to settle/mix for minimum two hours
- Run each faucet -inside and outside of home -for several minutes (this is necessary to disinfect all fixtures)
- Run water (not necessary to run at *every* faucet) for 3 -5 hours to purge chlorine from water
- Arrange for a laboratory sample of your treated well water with the Fairfield Water Department if you wish (973-882-2738)

Please see the attached Environmental Protection Agency document for more details on disinfecting your own well, or call the Health Department with any further questions at 973-882-2728.

Returning Home

General Tips

Don't return to your flood-damaged home before the area is declared to be safe by local officials. Returning home can be both physically and mentally challenging. Above all, use caution.

Check for injuries. Do not attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of death or further injury. If you must move an unconscious person, first stabilize the neck and back, then call for help immediately.

- Keep a battery-powered radio with you so you can listen for emergency updates and news reports.
- Use a battery-powered flash light to inspect a damaged home.
Note: The flashlight should be turned on outside before entering - the battery may produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present.
- Watch out for animals, especially poisonous snakes. Use a stick to poke through debris.
- Be wary of wildlife and other animals
- Use the phone only to report life-threatening emergencies.
- Stay off the streets. If you must go out, watch for fallen objects; downed electrical wires; and weakened walls, bridges, roads, and sidewalks.

Before You Enter Your Home

Walk carefully around the outside and check for loose power lines, gas leaks, and structural damage. If you have any doubts about safety, have your residence inspected by a qualified building inspector or structural engineer before entering.

Do not enter if:

- You smell gas.
- Floodwaters remain around the building.
- Your home was damaged by fire and the authorities have not declared it safe.

Going Inside Your Home

When you go inside your home, there are certain things you should and should not do. Enter the home carefully and check for damage. Be aware of loose boards and slippery floors. The following items are other things to check inside your home:

- **Natural gas.** If you smell gas or hear a hissing or blowing sound, open a window and leave immediately. Turn off the main gas valve from the outside, if you can. Call the gas company from a neighbor's residence. If you shut off the gas supply at the main valve, you will need a professional to turn it back on. Do not smoke or use oil, gas lanterns, candles, or torches for lighting inside a damaged home until you are sure there is no leaking gas or other flammable materials present.
- **Sparks, broken or frayed wires.** Check the electrical system unless you are wet, standing in water, or unsure of your safety. If possible, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If the situation is unsafe, leave the building and call for help. Do not turn on the lights until you are sure they're safe to use. You may want to have an electrician inspect your wiring.
- **Roof, foundation, and chimney cracks.** If it looks like the building may collapse, leave immediately.
- **Appliances.** If appliances are wet, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. Then, unplug appliances and let them dry out. Have appliances checked by a professional before using them again. Also, have the electrical system checked by an electrician before turning the power back on.
- **Water and sewage systems.** If pipes are damaged, turn off the main water valve. Check with local authorities before using any water; the water could be contaminated. Pump out wells and have the water tested by authorities before drinking. Do not flush toilets until you know that sewage lines are intact.
- **Food and other supplies.** Throw out all food and other supplies that you suspect may have become contaminated or come in to contact with floodwater. Your basement. If your basement has flooded, pump it out gradually (about one third of the water per day) to avoid damage. The walls may collapse and the floor may buckle if the basement is pumped out while the surrounding ground is still waterlogged.
- **Open cabinets.** Be alert for objects that may fall.
- **Clean up household chemical spills.** Disinfect items that may have been contaminated by raw sewage, bacteria, or chemicals. Also clean salvageable items.
- **Call your insurance agent.** Take pictures of damages. Keep good records of repair and cleaning costs.

Removing Mold from Your Home

Dealing with Mold and Mildew in Your Flood Damaged Home

After natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods, excess moisture and standing water contribute to the growth of mold in homes and other buildings.

Be aware that mold may be present and may be a health risk for your family, if your home has water damage due to:

- Flooding,
- Sewage back-up,
- Plumbing or roof leaks,
- Damp basements or crawl space,
- Overflows from sinks or bathtub, or
- High humidity: steam cooking, dryer vents, humidifiers.

The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) website contains information on mold cleanup and remediation in homes, schools and other large commercial buildings.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) website includes general background information about mold health hazards and mold safety recommendations.



Flood Cleanup: Avoiding Indoor Air Quality Problems

Fact Sheet

Introduction

During a flood cleanup, the indoor air quality in your home or office may appear to be the least of your problems. However, failure to remove contaminated materials and to reduce moisture and humidity can present serious long-term health risks. Standing water and wet materials are a breeding ground for microorganisms, such as viruses, bacteria, and mold. They can cause disease, trigger allergic reactions, and continue to damage materials long after the flood.

This fact sheet discusses problems caused by microbial growth, as well as other potential effects of flooding, on long-term indoor air quality and the steps you can take to lessen these effects. Although the information contained here emphasizes residential flood cleanup, it is also applicable to other types of buildings.

Prepare for Cleanup

Read *Repairing Your Flooded Home*

www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_570_,00.htm prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross. The booklet discusses flood safety issues and can save your life. The booklet also contains detailed information on proper methods for cleaning up your home. You should also consult the wealth of information on the FEMA, CDC, and The American Lung Association sites on the subject, which are listed below:

- FEMA web site on floods/flooding - www.fema.gov/hazards/floods
- American Lung Association's Fact Sheet on Flood Clean-up - www.lungusa.org/air/flood_factsheet99.html

This fact sheet provides additional information not covered in the original FEMA/American Red Cross booklet on indoor air quality concerns related to flooding (however, because this fact sheet was prepared in 1993, it is more than likely that FEMA and the Red Cross and the American Lung Association do have more up-to-date information and resources available which you should consult). Many of the methods used for general cleanup, as detailed in the booklet, are the same as those used to avoid problems with indoor air quality. For brevity, we have not provided detail on the general methods used for cleanup here. This fact sheet is intended to be used in

conjunction with the FEMA/American Red Cross booklet and resources.

Children are different from adults. They may be more vulnerable to chemicals and organisms they are exposed to in the environment.

Avoid Problems from Microbial Growth

Remove Standing Water

Standing water is a breeding ground for microorganisms, which can become airborne and be inhaled. Where floodwater contains sewage or decaying animal carcasses, infectious disease is of concern. Even when flooding is due to rainwater, the growth of microorganisms can cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals. For these health reasons, and to lessen structural damage, all standing water should be removed as quickly as possible.

Dry Out Your Home

Excess moisture in the home is an indoor air quality concern for three reasons:

- Microorganisms brought into the home during flooding may present a health hazard. These organisms can penetrate deep into soaked, porous materials and later be released into air or water. Coming in contact with air or water that contains these organisms can make you sick.
- High humidity and moist materials provide ideal environments for the excessive growth of microorganisms that are always present in the home. This may result in additional health concerns such as allergic reactions.
- Long-term increases in humidity in the home can also foster the growth of dust mites. Dust mites are a major cause of allergic reactions and asthma.

See Step 4, Dry Out Your Home, of the American Red Cross/FEMA booklet, *Repairing Your Flooded Home*, on steps that should be taken to open up and dry out ceilings, walls, and floors in the home.

Be patient. The drying out process could take several weeks, and growth of microorganisms will continue as long as humidity is high. If the house is not dried out properly, a musty odor, signifying growth of microorganisms can remain long after the flood.

Remove Wet Materials

It can be difficult to throw away items in a home, particularly those with sentimental value. However, keeping certain items that were soaked by water may be unhealthy. Some materials tend to absorb and keep water more than others. In general, materials that are wet and cannot be thoroughly cleaned and dried within 24-48 hours should be discarded, as they can remain a source of microbial growth.

Information on the types of water-damaged materials that should be discarded are provided in Step 4, Dry Out Your Home, of the American Red Cross/FEMA booklet, *Repairing Your Flooded Home*

The booklet suggests that you may be able to dry out and save certain building materials (for example, wallboard, fiberglass insulation, and wall-to-wall carpeting that were soaked only with clean rainwater). You may, however, want to consider removing and replacing them to avoid indoor air quality problems. Because they take a long time to dry, they may be a source of microbial growth. For information on mold prevention and cleanup, visit www.epa.gov/mold or call IAQINFO at 800-438-4318.

In addition, fiberboard, fibrous insulation, and disposable filters should be replaced, if they are present in your heating and air conditioning system and have contacted water. (If a filter was designed to be cleaned with water and was in contact with clean rainwater only, ensure that it is thoroughly cleaned before reinstalling.)

Avoid Problems from the Use of Cleaners and Disinfectants

The cleanup process involves thorough washing and disinfecting of the walls, floors, closets, shelves, and contents of the house. In most cases, common household cleaning products and disinfectants are used for this task. FEMA also suggests the use of disinfectants and sanitizers on the ductwork for the heating and air conditioning system, if it has been flooded.

Disinfectants and sanitizers contain toxic substances. The ability of chemicals in other household products used for cleaning to cause health effects varies greatly, from those with no known health effect to those that are highly toxic. Read and follow label instructions carefully, and provide fresh air by opening windows and doors. If it is safe for you to use electricity and the home is dry, use fans both during and after the use of disinfecting, cleaning, and sanitizing products.

Be careful about mixing household cleaners and disinfectants together. Check labels for cautions on this. Mixing certain types of products can produce toxic fumes and result in injury and even death.

Avoid Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that can be lethal at high levels. Carbon monoxide levels can build up rapidly if certain types of combustion devices (for example, gasoline-powered generators, camp stoves and lanterns, or charcoal-burning devices) are used indoors. Do not use combustion devices designed for outdoor use indoors.

Avoid Problems from Airborne Asbestos and Lead Dust

Elevated concentrations of airborne asbestos can occur if asbestos-containing materials present in the home are disturbed. Airborne asbestos can cause lung cancer and mesothelioma, a cancer of the chest and abdominal linings. If you know or suspect that your home contains asbestos, contact the EPA TSCA Assistance Information Service at (202) 554-1404 for information on steps you should take to avoid exposure.

Lead is a highly toxic metal which produces a range of adverse health effects, particularly in young children. Disturbance or removal of materials containing lead-based paint may result in elevated concentration of lead dust in the air. If you know or suspect that your home contains lead-based paint, contact the National Lead Information Center to receive a general information packet, to order other documents, or for detailed information or questions. Call and speak with a specialist Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm eastern time (except Federal holidays) at 1 (800) 424-LEAD [5323].

Copies of this fact sheet, and other information on indoor air quality, are available from:

Indoor Air Quality Information Clearinghouse [IAQINFO]
Phone: 800-438-4318 or (703) 356-4020 Fax: (703) 356-5386 or, E-mail at iaqinfo@aol.com

Additional Information

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood website - www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/ Publications are available from:

FEMA – www.fema.gov
Jessup, MD 20794-2012
Phone: 800-480-2520/Fax: 301-362-5335

American Lung Association's Fact Sheet on Flood Cleanup - www.lungusa.org/air/flood_factsheet99.html

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) **Key Facts About Hurricane Recovery** - www.bt.cdc.gov/hurricanes/index.asp



Protect Yourself from Mold

After natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods, excess moisture and standing water contribute to the growth of **mold** in homes and other buildings. When returning to a home that has been flooded, be aware that mold may be present and may be a health risk for your family.

People at Greatest Risk from Mold

People with asthma, allergies, or other breathing conditions may be more sensitive to mold. People with immune suppression (such as people with HIV infection, cancer patients taking chemotherapy, and people who have received an organ transplant) are more susceptible to mold infections.

Possible Health Effects of Mold Exposure

People who are sensitive to mold may experience stuffy nose, irritated eyes, wheezing, or skin irritation. People allergic to mold may have difficulty in breathing and shortness of breath. People with weakened immune systems and with chronic lung diseases, such as obstructive lung disease, may develop mold infections in their lungs. If you or your family members have health problems after exposure to mold, contact your doctor or other health care provider.

Recognizing Mold

You *may* recognize mold by:

- **Sight** (Are the walls and ceiling discolored, or do they show signs of mold growth or water damage?)
- **Smell** (Do you smell a bad odor, such as a musty, earthy smell or a foul stench?)

Safely Preventing Mold Growth

Clean up and dry out the building quickly (within 24 to 48 hours). Open doors and windows. Use fans to dry out the building. (See the fact sheet for drying out your house, "Reentering Your Flooded Home" at www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/reenter.asp.)

- **When in doubt, take it out!** Remove all porous items that have been wet for more than 48 hours and that cannot be thoroughly cleaned and dried. These items can remain a source of mold growth and should be removed from the home. Porous, noncleanable items include carpeting and carpet padding, upholstery, wallpaper, drywall, floor and ceiling tiles, insulation material, some clothing, leather, paper, wood, and food. **Removal and cleaning are important because even dead mold may cause allergic reactions in some people.**
- To *prevent* mold growth, clean wet items and surfaces with detergent and water.
- Homeowners may want to temporarily store items outside of the home until insurance claims can be filed. See recommendations by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/whatshouldidoafter.shtm.
- If you wish to disinfect, refer to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) document, *A Brief Guide to Mold and Moisture in Your Home* at www.epa.gov/iaq/molds/images/moldguide.pdf.

Protect Yourself from Mold

(continued from previous page)

If there is mold growth in your home, you should clean up the mold *and* fix any water problem, such as leaks in roofs, walls, or plumbing. Controlling moisture in your home is the most critical factor for preventing mold growth.

To *remove* mold growth from hard surfaces use commercial products, soap and water, or a bleach solution (www.cdc.gov/mold/faqs.htm) of no more than 1 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water. Use a stiff brush on rough surface materials such as concrete.

If you choose to use bleach to remove mold:

- Never mix bleach with ammonia or other household cleaners. Mixing bleach with ammonia or other cleaning products will produce dangerous, toxic fumes.
- Open windows and doors to provide fresh air.
- Wear non-porous gloves and protective eye wear.
- If the area to be cleaned is more than 10 square feet, consult the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guide titled *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings*. Although focused on schools and commercial buildings, this document also applies to other building types. You can get it free by calling the EPA Indoor Air Quality Information Clearinghouse at (800) 438-4318, or by going to the EPA web site at www.epa.gov/mold/mold_remediation.html.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using bleach or any other cleaning product.
- More information on personal safety while cleaning up after a natural disaster is available at www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/workers.asp.

If you plan to be inside the building for a while or you plan to clean up mold, you should buy an N95 mask at your local home supply store and wear it while in the building. Make certain that you follow instructions on the package for fitting the mask tightly to your face. If you go back into the building for a short time and are not cleaning up mold, you do not need to wear an N95 mask.

Other Mold Resources

- Clean Up Safely After a Natural Disaster (www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/cleanup.asp)
- Reentering Your Flooded Home (www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/reenter.asp)
- Mold - General Resources (www.cdc.gov/mold)

For more information, visit www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters,
or call CDC at 800-CDC-INFO (English and Spanish) or 888-232-6348 (TTY).

August 25, 2006

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What to Do After the Flood

Drilled, driven or bored wells are best disinfected by a well or pump contractor, because it is difficult for the private owner to thoroughly disinfect these wells.

If you suspect that your well may be contaminated, contact your local or state health department or agriculture extension agent for specific advice on disinfecting your well. The suggestions below are intended to supplement flood precautions issued by State and local health authorities.

WARNING!
DO NOT TURN ON THE PUMP
There is danger of electrical shock and damage to your well or pump if they have been flooded

WARNING!
DO NOT WASH WITH WELL WATER
People drinking or washing with water from a private well that has been flooded will risk getting sick.

Well and Pump Inspection

Flood Conditions at the Well - Swiftly moving flood water can carry large debris that could loosen well hardware, dislodge well construction materials or distort casing. Coarse sediment in the flood waters could erode pump components. If the well is not tightly capped, sediment and flood water could enter the well and contaminate it. Wells that are more than 10 years old or less than 50 feet deep are likely to be contaminated, even if there is no apparent damage. Floods may cause some wells to collapse.

Electrical System - After flood waters have receded and the pump and electrical system have dried, do not turn on the equipment until the wiring system has been checked by a qualified electrician, well contractor, or pump contractor. If the pump's control box was submerged during the flood all electrical components must be dry before electrical service can be restored. Get assistance in turning the pump on from a well or pump contractor.

Pump Operation - All pumps and their electrical components can be damaged by sediment and flood water. The pump including the valves and gears will need to be cleaned of silt and sand. If pumps are not cleaned and properly lubricated they can burn out. Get assistance from a well or pump contractor who will be able to clean, repair or maintain different types of pumps.

Emergency Disinfection of Wells that have been Flooded

Before Disinfection: Check the condition of your well. Make sure there is no exposed or damaged wiring. If you notice any damage, call a professional before the disinfection process.

Materials Needed:

- One gallon of non-scented household liquid bleach;
- rubber gloves;
- eye protection;
- old clothes; and
- a funnel.



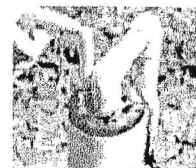
Step 1

If your water is muddy or cloudy, run the water from an outside spigot with a hose attached until the water becomes clear and free of sediments.

Step 2

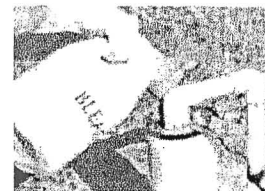
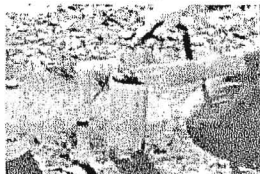


Determine what type of well you have and how to pour the bleach into the well. Some wells have a sanitary seal with either an air vent or a plug that can be removed (a). If it is a bored or dug well, the entire cover can be lifted off to provide a space for pouring the bleach into the well (b).



Step 3

Take the gallon of bleach and funnel (if needed) and carefully pour the bleach down into the well casing.

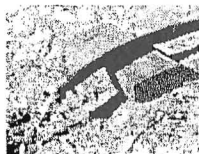


Step 4

After the bleach has been added, run water from an outside hose into the well casing until you smell chlorine coming from the hose. Then turn off the outside hose.

Step 5

Turn on all cold water faucets, inside and outside of house, until the chlorine odor is detected in each faucet, then shut them all off. If you have a water treatment system, switch it to bypass before turning on the indoor faucets.

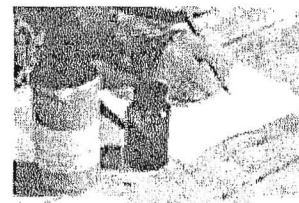


Step 6

Wait 6 to 24 hours before turning the faucets back on. It is important not to drink, cook, bathe or wash with this water during the time period --- it contains high amounts of chlorine.

Step 7

Once the waiting period is up, turn on an outside spigot with hose attached and run the water into a safe area where it will not disturb plants, lakes, streams or septic tanks. Run the water until there is no longer a chlorine odor. Turn the water off.



Step 8

The system should now be disinfected, and you can now use the water.

Step 9

Have your water tested for bacteria 7 to 10 days after disinfection.

Sampling and Testing the Well Water

Contact the local health department to have well water sampled and tested for contamination. Or, call your state laboratory certification officer to find a certified lab near you. You can get this number from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

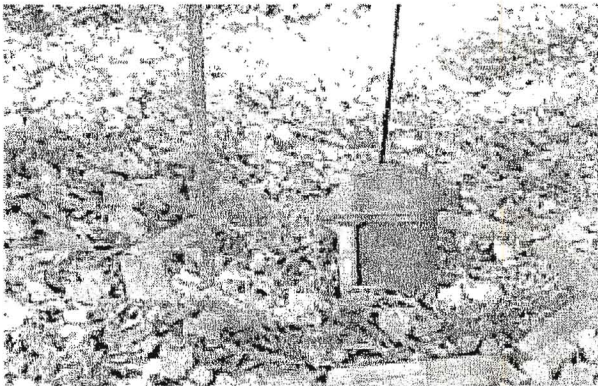
If the health department issues sterile bottles for the private well owner to collect water samples, follow all instructions for the use of these bottles.

After the pump is back in operation, the health department should sample and test the water at regular intervals.

CAUTION: Because of the extensive flood area and the speed and direction of ground water flow, your well may not be a safe source of water for many months after the flood. The well can become contaminated with bacteria or other contaminants. Waste water from malfunctioning septic tanks or chemicals seeping into the ground can contaminate the ground water even after the water was tested and found to be safe. It will be necessary to take long range precautions, including repeated testing, to protect the safety of drinking water.

CONCERNS AND ADVISORIES

If in doubt about the well water supply, follow health department drinking and bathing advisories.



Remember that there is a danger of electrical shock from any electrical device that has been flooded; consult a certified electrician. Rubber boots and gloves are not adequate protection from electric shock.

Well disinfection will not provide protection from pesticides, heavy metals and other types of non-biological contamination. If such contamination is suspected, due to the nearness of these contaminant sources, special treatment is required.

Information on home water treatment units (also called point-of-use and point-of-entry units) is available from U.S. EPA by phoning the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)**.

If you observe chemical containers (including barrels and drums) that have moved to your property, call your state or county health department or the **Superfund Hotline (1-800-424-9346)**.

For information on long-term water quality conditions in the area, consult the state or county health department.

Well owners may have information about the construction, or testing of their well and this information will be helpful to the health department in determining water quality conditions.

Septic systems should not be used immediately after floods. Drain fields will not work until underground water has receded. Septic lines may have broken during the flood.