

Flooded Wells

If your well was flooded, do not drink the water until you follow these simple steps:

1. After flood waters have receded, the pump, electrical system, and the well should be inspected and repaired if needed. **Do not turn on the equipment until the wiring system and pump have been checked by a qualified electrician, well contractor, or pump contractor.** There is danger of electrical shock and damage to your well or pump if they have been flooded.
2. Disinfect the well following the steps below (you will need two gallons unscented liquid laundry bleach, eye protection, rubber gloves, old clothes, and a funnel).
 - If the water is muddy or cloudy, run the water from an outside spigot with a hose attached until the water becomes clear and free of sediment.
 - Add two gallons of fresh unscented laundry bleach to five gallons of water. Mix the solution in a clean container. Do not use “old” bleach. Bleach loses its strength the longer it sits on store shelves or in your home.
 - Remove the cap from the well. Pour or funnel the chlorine solution directly into the well. Avoid pouring the solution on wires. Pour the solution just inside the casing of the well (not into the center pipe).
 - With a garden hose, re-circulate the solution back into the well washing down the sides of the casing for about ten minutes.
 - Turn all faucets on throughout the house, inside and outside - including hot water faucets, flush toilets and run water into the empty washing machine (remember this is bleach water and will fade cloths!).
 - Run the water until you smell chlorine.
 - Bypass water treatment units as the solution can cause damage. Consult your owner’s manual for proper procedures to sanitize any treatment unit.
 - Once the odor of chlorine is detected in all water lines, shut off the faucets and let the water sit in the plumbing for 24 hours.
 - Flush the chlorine from the system after the 24 hour contact time. Do not run the water into your septic system as this can cause the system to overload.
 - Wait at least two days, and then have your water checked for total coliform bacteria.
 - Call the Williams County Health Department – Environmental Division at 419-485-3141 if you have questions or want to schedule a sampling time.