

# WELL OWNER TIP SHEET: FLOODING

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IN CASE OF FLOODING?

After a flood, the owners of household wells should take certain precautions to make sure their water is safe and their well is in good operating condition. An obvious concern is that floodwater loaded with bacteria, chemicals or other pollutants may have gotten into the well. A less obvious concern is electrical shock if a non-submersible pump or any part of the well electrical system is flooded. After a flood one should:

1. Stay away from the well pump while it is flooded to avoid electrical shock.
2. Do not drink the water from the well or use it for washing to avoid becoming sick.
3. Get help from a qualified water well contractor or pump installer to:
  - Clean and turn on the pump
  - Flush the well
  - Disinfect the well
  - Perform any other necessary maintenance.



Water wells are specialized systems that require knowledge and expertise to repair and disinfect. If your well has been flooded, and you are uncertain of the electrical safety of the well, use bottled water or boil your water until a qualified water well system contractor can check out your well system. If the electrical system and controls were not flooded and operational, do what you can to pump out the well until clear. Well owners also can benefit from reading the well maintenance and water quality sections of this Web site.

## HOW DOES FLOODING IMPACT WELL SYSTEMS AND WATER QUALITY

A flood will leave warning signs that a water well may be unsafe. Floodwater carries large pieces of debris that can dislodge parts of the well and distort or crack the well casing. Floodwater may also deposit mud or sediment in the well.



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