

AFTER THE STORM

PRIVATE WELLS & FLOODING

Emergency Information: 1-800-342-3557 • floridadisaster.org

During a Flood

If your well is affected by flood waters, there may be disease-causing organisms in your water making it unsafe to drink. Make sure your water is safe to drink. The Florida Department of Health recommends you do ONE of the following:

1. Boil tap water and hold it at a rolling boil for at least one minute. Let it cool before using it for drinking, brushing teeth, washing food, cooking or washing dishes.
2. Disinfect tap water by adding eight drops of plain, unscented household bleach (four to six percent strength), which is about one-eighth teaspoon or a dime-sized puddle, per gallon of water. If a higher strength bleach is used (8.25% strength), only add seven drops of bleach. Mix the solution and let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat the procedure one time.

Note: Use a container that has a cap or cover for disinfecting and storing water for drinking. This will prevent contamination. In addition, containers for water should be rinsed with a bleach solution of one tablespoon bleach per gallon of water before reusing them.

3. Use commercially-available bottled water, especially for mixing baby formula.

After the Flood

Disinfect your private well using these steps:

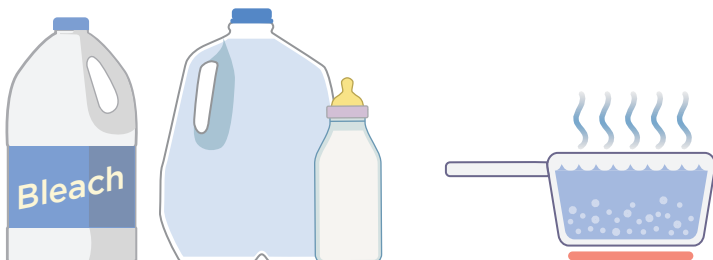
FloridaHealth.gov/environmental-health/private-well-testing/index.html.

You will find more information at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website:

water.epa.gov/drink/info/well/whatdo.cfm

Find out if your water is safe, have it tested by a certified laboratory for coliform bacteria:

fldeploc.dep.state.fl.us/aams/index.asp



Florida
HEALTH