What to Do in a Flood if You Have a Well or Septic System

If you get water from an individual well:

Do not use tap water for:

- Drinking.
- Brushing teeth.
- Washing dishes.
- Preparing food.



Use bottled water or boil well water for three to five minutes.



If you can't boil or buy water, mix household bleach with water.

- If the water is clear, use 8 drops per gallon of water.
- If the water is cloudy, use 16 drops per gallon of water.
- After adding the bleach to the water, wait 30 minutes to use.



After the flood:

Flush and chlorinate your well. Use a certified laboratory to test your water for bacteria.

If you have a septic system:

Do not pump the septic tank. Pumping the tank could cause it to break, float or could damage inlet and outlet pipes.



Do not put water from a basement sump pump into the septic system or onto the drainfield.



Take fewer showers or baths.



Do not use the washing machine or dishwasher.



