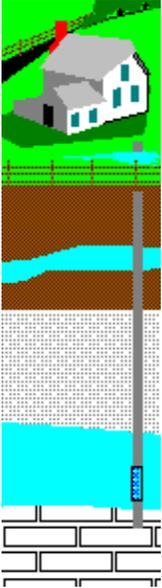


Barry-Eaton District Health Department - FAQ Sheet #1

- Frequently Asked Questions -

What Should I Do if My Well is Flooded?



Why should I be concerned?

Surface waters are susceptible to many sources of contamination. This is particularly true during a flood event where sewage runoff and overflow from lakes, rivers, and streams may be carrying bacteria such as E. Coli and cholera, protozoa such as Giardia, and viruses such as hepatitis. If surface water enters your well, it may contaminate the water that you rely on for drinking, cooking, washing, and bathing.

What should I do to protect my family from contaminated well water?

In general, if flood waters have reached your well, or if you notice any change in the appearance or taste of your water, or even if you are unsure about the impact of flooding on the water quality in your area, you should boil all of the water you use for drinking, making beverages, cooking, brushing your teeth, washing dishes, and washing areas of the skin that have been cut or injured. The water should be brought to a rolling boil for at least one minute and then cooled as necessary. Bottled water may also be used for all of these purposes.

Is my water safe to drink after the flooding subsides?

No -- If your well has been flooded, you must disinfect it and contact your county health department for information on how to sample your water and where to take the sample for bacteriological testing.

How do I disinfect my well

Contact a registered well driller or licensed well pump installer for proper chlorination.

Is it safe now?

The only way to verify that the water is safe to drink is to have it tested. Although chlorine bleach is effective against microorganisms, it will not remove chemical contamination that may have entered your well.

For further information, contact your local health department at:

**Barry-Eaton District Health Department
Environmental Health Division**

**BARRY COUNTY
(269) 945-9516, ext. 35**

**EATON COUNTY
(517) 541-2615**