



Understanding **Well Water Risks** After a Flood

If flooding reaches a well, the well water will likely be contaminated.



BACTERIA



CHEMICALS



SEWAGE

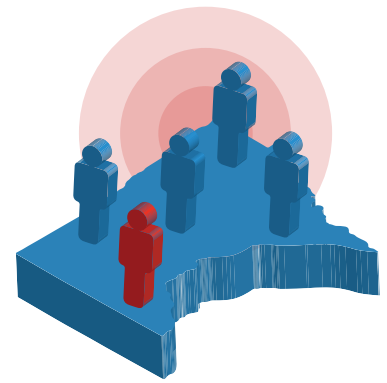


AND MORE



A well could still be contaminated from a **nearby flood** if the well reaches the groundwater tables below.









One in five Minnesotans relies on private well water.



About **25% of private wells** in Minnesota are contaminated with **coliform** bacteria because of groundwater seepage.

The Midwestern flooding of 2019 potentially **contaminated 254,922 Minnesota wells.**

What to do after a flood

-  Contact health department for well contamination testing: Safe Drinking Water Hotline **(800) 426-4791** or visit: **epa.gov/privatewells/protect-your-homes-water**
-  If water is cloudy, run outside line until clear
-  Add bleach to well casing if recommended by manufacturer
-  Wait 6-24 hours before turning faucets back on after bleach
-  Test water for bacteria 7-10 days after disinfection
-  Don't use septic systems immediately after a flood
-  Drink bottled water until you are certain water is free of contaminants
-  Get a professional foundation inspection to identify hidden flood damage to your home