



WATER QUALITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A NATURAL DISASTER! WATER QUALITY IS THE KEY TO SURVIVAL!

Use your emergency water before drinking until you know that your water is safe to use.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR WELL BECOMES FLOODED. DO NOT USE CONTAMINATED WATER FOR DRINKING, BATHING, WASHING DISHES, BRUSHING TEETH UNTIL WATER HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY DISINFECTED AND TESTED.

Do not turn on the pump! There is a chance of an electrical shock if your well has become flooded.

Do not drink or wash with the well water until disinfected. There is a risk of getting sick without properly disinfecting your well!

Contact a well, or pump contractor to clean and turn on the pump.

Run the pump until the water comes out clean.



If your water supply becomes unsafe to drink due to a natural disaster, use these emergency methods to treat your water:

Reminder: the best way to treat your well is by a well or pump contractor.

1st option: Add liquid household bleach (fresh bleach that does not contain detergent or other additives). Add eight drops per gallon of water. Container must be clean and sanitized. Do Not use milk jugs for storage. Water must have a slight smell of chlorine after having it stand for 30 minutes. If it does not, repeat process.

2nd option: Boil the water vigorously for 10 minutes. If the water tastes flat, you can shake the water bottle to add oxygen or add a pinch of salt.

3rd option: Add 2% tincture of iodine to the water, or twelve drops per gallon of water. Double this amount if the water is cloudy. Let stand for 30 minutes before drinking.

Important phone numbers

for water quality testing and information:

<u>L & C Co. Water Quality Protection District</u>	457-8927
	457-8584
<u>Environmental Laboratory, MT DPHHS</u>	444-2642
<u>Alpine Analytical, Inc.</u>	449-6282
<u>Energy Laboratories, Inc.</u>	442-0711
<u>L & C Co. Health Department</u>	447-8351
<u>City of Helena- Water Treatment Plant</u>	447-1520



Emergency drinking water should be rotated every 6 months. Store at least one-gallon, per person, per day, for seven days.



Lewis & Clark County
Water Quality Protection District
316 N. Park
Helena, MT 59623

For additional information:
www.epa.gov/safewater/privatewells
www.waterandhealth.org/drinkingwater/water
www.cdc.gov/travel/water_treatment.htm

A SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDE TO WATER QUALITY WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A NATURAL DISASTER! WATER QUALITY IS THE KEY TO SURVIVAL!

Natural disasters can happen anytime and anywhere. The best way to protect you and your family is to be prepared before the disaster hits. Below are suggested items to keep stored for water quality and quantity.

If you live in a flood prone area, flood damage can cause your drinking water to become unsafe to drink. The best protection for your well is a flood proof well cap. They are watertight therefore, potentially contaminated flood waters are prevented from entering the well. Also mound the ground around the wellhead so it slopes AWAY from the well.

Earthquakes can damage pipes and filtering systems and can disrupt your delivery of water . The best protection if you suspect your water supply has become contaminated is to follow the suggestions on the other side of this page.

Prepare you and your family for natural disasters by storing these items in a place that is dry, dark, and in a cool place:



1. Emergency water. Write the date on water container so you know when to rotate the water. Keep in mind, that you need one-gallon per person for at least 7 days. All water must be stored in a sanitized container and the water must be treated to avoid contamination by bacteria and algae. If your water is already treated by a facility, then your water does not need to be treated by you before storing it.
2. A quart of pure, unscented bleach.
3. Iodine
4. Dropper (for measuring)

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF WATER:

In addition to stored water there are other sources that contain water for use in case of a natural disaster

They are:

1. Melted ice cubes
2. Water drained from the water heater faucet (only if the water heater has not been damaged).
3. Water dipped from the flush tanks (not the bowls) of home toilets.
4. Liquids from canned goods such as fruit and vegetable juices.

UNSAFE SOURCES OF WATER:

1. Radiators
2. Hot water boilers
3. Waterbeds
4. Swimming pools and spas

