

THE HOME

Be sure the utilities are off. Do not turn them back on until notified.

Avoid weakened structures, particularly floors, walls and rooftops.

A battery operated radio and flashlight (with spare batteries) should be kept in storage for emergencies.

DRINKING WATER

If your well has been flooded, assume the water in your home has been contaminated. Follow the included directions to disinfect your well or contact the Okanogan County Public Health at **509-422-7140**. If you are on public water, your local health jurisdiction will let you know, through local media, if your water is not safe to drink. Bottled water is the best choice. If you can, get commercially bottled water that has been stored for less than 6 months in tightly sealed containers. Plan for one gallon per person per day. **Water should be collected and stored in a sanitary non-toxic container.**

IF THE WATER FROM YOUR TAP IS CLEAR

Boil it for 3 minutes to disinfect. This kills disease-causing bacteria and parasites or

Add ¼, teaspoon household bleach per 2 gallons of water.

Let it stand for ½ hour. **Bleach will not kill intestinal parasites, such as giardia.**

IF THE WATER IS CLOUDY

Filter it by pouring it through a coffee filter and then boil it for 3 minutes.

If you can't boil it, filter it and add ¼ teaspoon household bleach per gallon of water. Let it stand for 1 hour. **Bleach will not kill intestinal parasites.**

SANITATION/HYGIENE

Wash your hands often using soap and disinfected water.

Make sure hands are washed:

- ◆ When preparing or eating food
- ◆ After using the toilet
- ◆ During and after handling contaminated items in flood cleanup activities.

Wear gloves and boots. Do not touch flood-contaminated objects with bare hands. Teeth should be brushed with bottled or disinfected water. Use disinfected water for food preparation.

TOILET

Until sewage disposal systems are back to normal, use any large container lined with a plastic bag and covered with a tight-fitting lid, as a temporary toilet. Add ¼ cup of chlorine bleach or disinfectant after each use to kill germs and stop odor. **Dispose of the contents in a sanitary manner.**

ANIMALS

Do not trap or corner wild animals. Sick or injured animals may be dangerous.

FOOD

Throw out fresh or frozen food that has come into contact with floodwater.

Throw out food that has not been properly refrigerated: "If in doubt...throw it out!"

Undamaged canned goods are okay but before opening disinfect cans in a diluted bleach solution.

BUILDING CLEANUP

Wear waterproof boots and gloves. Open all doors and windows. Use fans when possible to air out the building.

First: clean walls, hard surfaced floors and household surfaces with soap and water. Make sure dirt and mud are gone.

Then, wipe everything down with solution of 1 cup household bleach to 5 gallons of water to disinfect. Wash all clothes and linens in hot water. Throw away flood damaged mattresses and stuffed furniture. They cannot be adequately cleaned, even with steam. **DO NOT mix bleach with anything other than water!**

HOW TO DISINFECT A WELL

Use bleach to disinfect. Follow the instructions below for dug or drilled wells to determine how much bleach to use. If you know how much water is in your well, add bleach for that amount of water. If you don't know, add bleach amount for the depth of your well.

DUG WELLS

Make a solution of bleach water using the amounts of bleach and water shown below. Pour bleach into 5-10 gallons of water. Mix thoroughly. Splash on casing inside well. Seal top. Open all faucets. Let run until you can smell bleach at each faucet. Close faucets. Let stand overnight. Next day, open outside faucets and let water run slowly until bleach smell is gone. Add bleach as follows:

Diameter of well	Add bleach
is 4 ft.	3 cups per ft. of water
is 6 ft.	6 cups per ft. of water
is 8 ft.	12 cups per ft of water

DRILLED WELLS

Make a solution of bleach water using the amounts of bleach and water shown below. Remove the well seal. Pour the bleach solution into the well. Connect hose and spray inside of well casing for 5 minutes. After bleach odor appears, turn on all water taps in house and let run until you can smell bleach at each faucet. Turn water off. Let stand overnight. Next day, open outside faucets and let water run slowly until bleach smell is gone.

To make bleach solution: Find out how many gallons of water are in your well. For every 100 gallons of water in your well, add a mixture of: 3 cups bleach in 5-10 gallons of water.

If well diameter is	It holds this much water
6 inches	1.5 gal. Water per ft.
8 inches	2.5 gal. Water per ft.

FOR SAFETY

After you disinfect your well, have a sample of your tap water tested for bacteria. Before you drink the water, make sure two successive samples are rated satisfactory to ensure it is safe and free of contamination.

**For More Information:
CONTACT:
Okanogan County Public Health
1234 South 2nd
Okanogan, WA 98840
509-422-7140**

Okanogan County Public Health



EMERGENCY MEASURES FOR FLOODS
