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Door County Public Health Department News Release— Flooding #4: Drinking Water Issues

Drinking Water Issues

Municipal Water Users

- Turn on and run faucets for at least five minutes before using water for drinking or food preparation.
- If a "boil water" notice is issued, follow any directions given by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, local water utility, or local health department.

Private Well Owners

- Private well owners whose well has been flooded should assume that flooded wells are contaminated.
- Do not drink or bathe in water from a private well that has been or is flooded.
- Wait until floodwaters have receded before sampling or disinfecting your well.
- **To sample your water supply yourself, obtain a well water testing kit. Kits are available from the Door County Sanitarian’s Department. Information at <http://www.co.door.wi.gov> under Quick Links, listed as [Water Test Kits](#).**
- If contamination is found, your well needs to be disinfected.
- Until the test results are known, follow these procedures to ensure safe drinking water: **Drink bottled water or water from a known, safe source.**
- When in doubt, if the water is CLOUDY, ODOROUS, COLORED - **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER! Stop Using Your Water and Switch to a Safe Water Source.**

Have Your Well and Plumbing Disinfected

Your well and the entire plumbing system should be disinfected. This procedure is best done by a licensed well driller or pump installer with the expertise and equipment.

Here are lists of [licensed well drillers and pump installers](#) who can get the work done. Go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wells/flood.html> for additional information.

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