



To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County

Correctly boil or disinfect water

If your well head was covered by flood waters, KCPHD recommends NOT consuming that water until the well has been tested and proven to be absent of bacteria. Disinfection of your well is necessary if test results show bacterial contamination.

Contact Kittitas County Public Health at (509) 962-7515 for information about well water testing. Until you receive water testing results that show the water is free of bacteria you should:

- Use bottled water that has not been exposed to flood waters if it is available.
- If bottled water is not available, you should boil water to make it safe. Boiling water will kill most types of disease-causing organisms. If the water is cloudy, filter it through clean cloths or allow it to settle, and draw off the clear water for boiling. Boil the water briskly for one minute, let it cool, and store it in clean containers with covers.
- If you can't boil water, you can disinfect it using household bleach. Bleach will kill some, but not all, types of disease-causing organisms. If the water is cloudy, filter it through clean cloths or allow it to settle, and draw off the clear water for disinfection. Add 1/8 teaspoon (or 8 drops) of regular, unscented, liquid household bleach for each gallon of water, stir it well, and let it stand for 30 minutes before you use it. Store disinfected water in clean containers with covers.
- For infants, use **only** pre-prepared canned baby formula. Do not use powdered formulas prepared with treated water.
- **Additional resources.** The following websites are additional resources about flood recovery. Many of the tips in this handout came from these resources.
 - On-site sewage systems – http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-11/documents/2005_09_22_faq_fs_whattodoafteraflood_septic_eng.pdf
 - Drinking water disinfection – <http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/emergency-disinfection-drinking-water>
 - Flood cleanup – <http://www.emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/cleanup/facts.asp>
 - Flood recovery – <http://www.emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/>

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