

GENERAL FLOOD INFORMATION

Avoid Flooded Areas

- **Do not swim or bathe in rivers, streams, creeks, or lakes in flooded areas.** Flood waters may contain sewage, fertilizer, manure, gas, pesticides, hazardous materials, large pieces of debris (such as tree limbs, boulders, metal objects, and sharp objects like glass, nails, fence posts, etc.).
- **Contact your local parks department for monitoring information about public beaches and access points to surface water.** Additional information on recreational water can also be found at the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene webpage (slh.wisc.edu).

Ensure You Have Safe Water

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 that are concerned that their well has been affected by a flood should assume that the well is contaminated.
- Signs that a well may be affected by a flood include:
 - Floodwaters come into contact or run over the top of a well.
 - You notice changes in the taste, smell, or color of the water.
 - You have a shallow well and live near areas that have been flooded
- Do not drink or bathe in water from a private well that has been or is flooded.
- See the [Fixing Your Flood Well](#) steps for more details.

Clean Up If Your Sewage System Floods

- After a flood, private sewage systems are no longer reliable. Portable toilets or other facilities should be used.
- Any areas with sewage backflow from your septic or municipal water system through flood drains, toilets, etc., such as basements, must be cleaned and disinfected with a chlorine solution. Anything that cannot be cleaned should be thrown out.