



KALAMAZOO COUNTY HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Promoting Health For All

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Environmental Health

FLOODING, YOUR WATER WELL, AND YOU

Water Well

If flood waters have ponded around your well, your drinking water supply may be impacted from infiltration of contaminants around your well casing. Until your water supply has been determined safe to drink through bacteriological testing, consider it UNSAFE.

- Do not rely on filters
- Drink only commercially bottled water or water you purify yourself.
- Boil water for 2 minutes to purify.
- Contact Kalamazoo County Environmental Health at (269) 373-5337 for information on testing your water supply for bacteriological contamination.



Basement Flooding

Should you have issues with your basement flooding, the following are some helpful tips for clean-up of the area and objects within the affected area:

1. After all water has been removed in your flooded basement, wash walls, floors, and cupboards, using plenty of soap or dishwashing detergent. Use warm or hot water if possible. Areas may be disinfected by use of a chlorine solution. Use eight (8) tablespoons or ½ cup household bleach per gallon of water. During cleanup of basements or other enclosed areas, provide as much ventilation as possible by opening windows and using fans if electricity is available.
2. Severe flooding can cause extensive damage to clothing, carpets, upholstered furniture, toys, bedding, and similar items. These items should be discarded unless they can be cleaned and disinfected.
 - a. Movable objects should be put outdoors to dry and be exposed to sunlight.
 - b. Some salvage agencies or companies are equipped to process contaminated material without hazard to employees or customers.
 - c. Discarded clothing should not be left accessible to unauthorized scavengers while pending pickup.
3. After cleaning the basement, make sure that all clothing and parts of the body that came in contact with the flood water are thoroughly washed in order to prevent the tracking of contaminated flood water into the living quarters of the house.

