



## Understanding Well Water Risks After a Flood

If flooding reaches a well, the well water will likely be contaminated.



BACTERIA



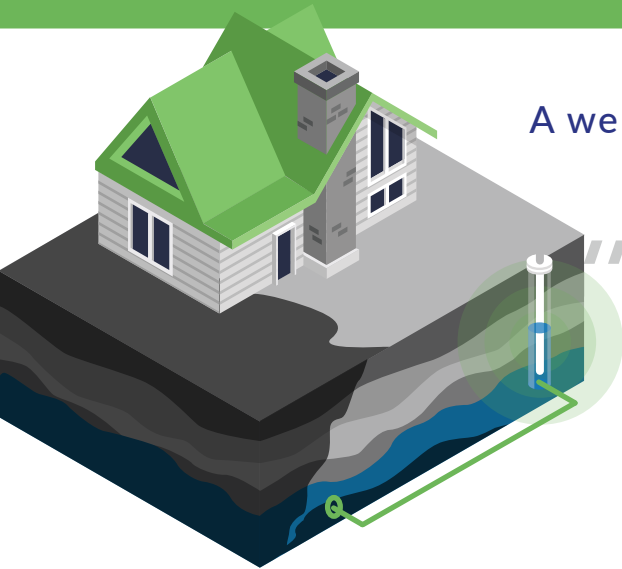
CHEMICALS



SEWAGE



AND MORE



A well could **still be contaminated from a nearby flood** if the well reaches the groundwater tables below.

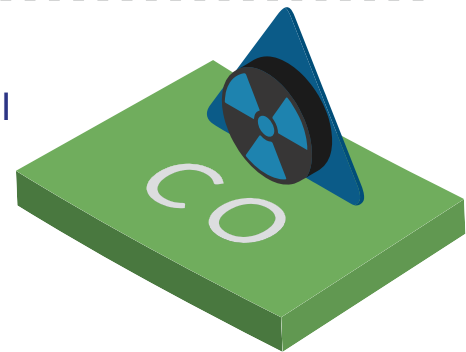
Contaminants found in well water tested after floods



COLIFORM



E. COLI



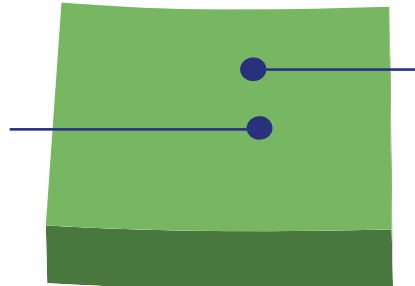
**FLOODING AND RAIN CAN ALSO CAUSE LONG-TERM WELL WATER CONTAMINATION**



**Decades of runoff** can spread chemicals into the groundwater, contaminating wells









## PFAS Chemicals

Well near  
**Colorado Springs** –  
**20x higher** than EPA  
health advisory level



Well in north  
metro **Denver** –  
**147x higher** than EPA  
health advisory level

## What to do after a flood

-  Contact health department for well contamination testing: Safe Drinking Water Hotline **(800) 426-4791** or visit: **[epa.gov/privatewells/protect-your-homes-water](https://epa.gov/privatewells/protect-your-homes-water)**
-  If water is cloudy, run outside line until clear
-  Add bleach to well casing if recommended by manufacturer
-  Wait 6-24 hours before turning faucets back on after bleach
-  Test water for bacteria 7-10 days after disinfection
-  Don't use septic systems immediately after a flood
-  Drink bottled water until you are certain water is free of contaminants
-  Get a professional foundation inspection to identify hidden flood damage to your home