



Talbot County Health Department
Office of Environmental Health
28712 Glebe Road, Suite 4
Easton, MD 21601

If your well was flooded.....

- 1) Don't use the water for drinking or cooking. Floodwater is likely to be contaminated with animal wastes, sewage, fuel oils, or other substances. Use bottled water or disinfect the water by boiling for one minute.
- 2) As soon as possible, after the water recedes, flush the floodwater out of the well by running water from an outside faucet for 6-12 hours or until the water clears or the salt taste is gone.
- 3) After flushing, the well should be disinfected by a licensed well driller or according to the following procedure:
 - a) Materials
 - i) 1 gallon of unscented household bleach
(Use 1 pint per 100 feet of 4" diameter casing. The average well depth in Talbot County is 400 feet.)
 - ii) 4-6 or more clean plastic 5 gallon buckets
 - iii) A garden hose(s) long enough to reach from an outside faucet to the well
 - b) At the well head, fill the buckets with water and half of the bleach in equal parts to each bucket. Stir the solution.
 - c) For a well with a submersible pump, turn off the electric power to the well. Remove the well cap and pull the electric cable and wire connectors out of the well casing.
 - d) Pour the buckets of chlorinated water into the well.
 - e) Turn on the electric power.

- f) Run water from the hose until a strong odor of chlorine is detected. Then run the water into the casing and circulate for 5-10 minutes.
 - g) Refill the buckets and turn off the water. Let the well sit unused for an hour.
 - h) Pour the buckets of chlorinated water into the well.
 - i) Run water through all faucets until a strong odor of chlorine is detected.
 - j) Let the well sit unused for at least 6 hours preferably overnight.
 - k) Run the water to waste until the odor of chlorine cannot be detected. This will take at least 3-5 days.
- 4) After the disinfection, the well should be sampled to determine the effectiveness of the disinfection. Contact a private lab from the enclosed list to schedule a water sample.
Depending on the length of time the well was submerged, the quality of the floodwater, and the condition of the well; repeated disinfections may be necessary to fully sanitize the well.
- 5) Once the well is producing potable water again, you should have a licensed well driller take the following actions to prevent future well flooding:
- a) Extend the top of the well casing above the flood level.
 - b) Install a watertight well cap.

**FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency – 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
This number may be useful if property owners have questions concerning federal relief information.**