

## Health & Safety Tip #71

# Wells & Surface Flooding

**H**heavy rainfall can cause contamination of wells by surface flooding.

If you are on a well or cistern, and it has been flooded by surface water, assume that the water in your home is not safe to drink. You will probably need to disinfect the well or cistern. Repairs may also be required.

Contact your local Environmental Health Officer for instructions. Do not drink the water until you have adequately treated it.



The Vancouver Island Health Authority offers these helpful tips to help ensure the water you drink does not make you sick.

- Disinfect water if you suspect any contamination of your supply. Disinfect all water that will be used for: drinking, cooking, washing fruit and vegetables to be eaten raw, brushing teeth and washing dishes. It is especially important to make sure that any water used to make infant formula is disinfected.
- Let muddy or cloudy water settle before disinfecting (or, preferably, use a different source of water). Pour off clear water into a separate container before disinfecting. It sometimes helps to filter the water through a clean cloth.
- Once the flooding event has subsided, make efforts to protect your well by providing adequate site drainage and installing a surface seal around the well casing. Contact your local Qualified Well Driller for help and more information.

For more info, visit: [www.viha.ca/mho/disaster/flooding.htm](http://www.viha.ca/mho/disaster/flooding.htm) or [www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile20.stm](http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile20.stm)