

# Flood Recovery Q&A for Water Sources

## What should I do if my water well has been flooded?

- It is recommended that your well be inspected by a licensed water well professional (ie water well driller) and your water distribution system be inspected by a qualified plumber to:
  - Determine if there is physical damage to the well ,
    - Evaluate the status of the well casing, wiring, pump, and well cap
    - Inspect the water distribution system for damage
    - If debris has entered the well via a poor or damaged well cap, the well may have to be serviced by a licensed water well contractor. If the well cap did not maintain an effective seal, debris and/or silt may have entered the well casing. This will require, as a minimum, the removal of the pump to have the well bailed and redeveloped, in extreme situations the well may have to be replaced.
  - If well is determined to be in good physical condition, the well should be flushed out.
    - After reestablishing the water pump, pump the well through the first available distribution point of access (tap) at the recommended water pumping rate for that particular well (do not over-pump). Pump out the well approximately 4 times the volume contained in the well casing. At that point, if water is not clear, pump additional volume. If water does not clear up, contact a licensed water well professional; the well may be damaged.
  - Shock chlorinate the water well and water distribution system.
    - Use the Alberta Health Services method or the method used in the Water Wells That Last publication. Copies available.
    - If not confident at doing-it-yourself, hire a contractor, ie water well driller or plumber.
  - Test the water quality in the well.
    - Do not use the well until you are sure that the water quality is suitable (safe) for its intended use.
    - Obtain water sample bottles and procedure from Alberta Health Services (Public Health Offices) for testing wells used for human consumption. These samples are tested for free
    - Water not used for human consumption must be sent to a private laboratory for testing at your own expense.

## What if I need to replace or repair my water well?

- Financial support maybe available through the Disaster Recovery Program, contact them to determine how to proceed.

**What if I wish to “improve” the location of my water well or bring my well up to current standards; ie move to a better location, remove well pit, seal off old wells, etc?**

- **If** you are an **agriculture producer**, you **may** qualify for the Growing Forward 2 On-Farm Water Management Program which currently has certain items that may qualify for partial financial assistance. IMPORTANT NOTE: ALL applicants **must be an agriculture Producer and have an Approved Long Term Water Management Plan prior** to starting any of the work in order to be eligible for funding. (For more information see the Growing Forward 2 Program:  
[http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm?contentId=ONFARM\\_WTRM\\_GT\\_PRG&useSecondary=true&active=yes](http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm?contentId=ONFARM_WTRM_GT_PRG&useSecondary=true&active=yes)

**What if my water sources include dugouts?**

- Many of the same conditions apply; ie repairs and cleanouts may be eligible under the Disaster Recovery Program, water quality testing should be done, Farmers may be able to access Growing Forward 2 to bring the dugout up to current standards, etc.

**Where can I find more information related to this?**

- *Water Wells That Last* - Agdex 716(A10)  
[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/wwg404](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/wwg404)
- *Quality Farm Dugouts* - Agdex 716(B01)  
[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/eng4696](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/eng4696)
- Flooded Private Water Wells – AHS fact sheet  
<http://www.capitalhealth.ca/nr/ronlyres/erqn6ux4etznkowng5uqsnjgaiezexgojpsmhcswwjlcipll6rrrha4nccqoy36kvcl2z4fasirb5u6fzv3vw5sr47a/floodedprivatewaterwells.pdf>
- Shock Chlorination Procedure for Contaminated Wells – AHS fact sheet  
<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/4323.asp>

**Contact Information:**

<p><b>Joe Harrington</b> <b>Agriculture Water Specialist</b> <b>Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development</b> Lethbridge, Alberta Phone: 403-381-5846 Email: <a href="mailto:joe.harrington@gov.ab.ca">joe.harrington@gov.ab.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Sunil Beeharry, B.Sc. CPHI(c)</b> <b>Environmental Health Advisor , Drinking Water</b> <b>Environmental Public Health</b> Alberta Health Services 10101 Southport Rd SW, Calgary T2W 3N2 Email: <a href="mailto:sunil.beeharry@albertahealthservices.ca">sunil.beeharry@albertahealthservices.ca</a> Phone: 403-943-2295 (Reception Desk) Fax: 403-934-8056 Website: <a href="http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca/envhealth">http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca/envhealth</a></p>
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