

**Reno County Health Department
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Hutchinson, KS 67501
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Cleaning and Disinfection of Flooded Private Water Wells

05/07/2007

1. Pump the well out thoroughly to remove all flood water.
2. Remove all mud, silt, and sediment from the well. The walls and curbing of dug wells should be washed down to remove any mud or sediment that may have collected on the walls. Bailers may be needed to remove mud from the bottom of the wells.
3. Repair the well, if necessary, to prevent surface water from entering the well. Sediment in a drilled, cased well reaches the groundwater through rapid percolation in sandy or alluvial soils or by direct flow among the casing of improperly grouted wells.
4. Pump the well until the water runs clear.
5. Disinfect the well. For drilled wells, pour 1-2 gallons of unscented bleach into the well, according to volume of water in well. For hand dug wells, use two gallons of unscented bleach.
6. Run a hose down the well to mix the bleach in the well water, at full force for 10 minutes. Allow the mixed water to stand for at least 20 minutes before running the water in the house.
7. Run water at each tap and faucet until the smell of chlorine is present. When the chlorine smell is present at all faucets, shut off faucets. Allow the chlorine to remain in the system for 12-24 hours. After this period of time, run the water until the taste and smell of chlorine is no longer present.
8. Use water at a normal rate for one week and then have the water tested to see if well is free of bacteria.