

What is a “Boil Water” Notice?

Due to flooding and damage caused by the storm, health officials advise those households under a “boil water” notice to take precautions against contaminated water, particularly those with private wells. If your well has been covered with standing water, the water may contain disease-causing germs and may not be safe to drink.

Health officials recommend that you:

- Boil water before use, holding it at full boil for at least one minute before using it for drinking, washing, cooking, etc.;
- Disinfect water by adding eight (8) drops (about 1/8 tsp – this would form a puddle about the size of a nickel) of plain unscented household bleach per gallon of water, and then let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat the procedure.
- Use a container that has a cap or cover for disinfecting and storing water to be used for drinking. This will prevent contamination.
- Use bottled water, especially for mixing baby formula.

After the flooding subsides:

- Disinfect your well using procedures available from your local health department or provided at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/water/manual/floodinf.htm>; and
- Have your water tested by your local health department or by a laboratory certified by the State to perform a drinking water analysis.

For further information, please contact your local county health department or visit www.doh.state.fl.us or www.FloridaDisaster.org. The Florida Emergency Information Line: 1-800-342-3557.