

Safety during Power Outage or Flooding

DRINKING WATER

Do not use rain barrel water, or any water that could possibly be contaminated, to wash dishes, brush your teeth, wash and prepare food, wash your hands, make ice, or make baby formula.

- If you are on a private well, a power outage can disrupt your water supply. This may allow contamination into the water system.
 - o During long power outages, do not open faucets, take showers, or flush toilets. Have water available to flush toilets.
 - o While your water system may have several litres of water in storage, using the water while the power is out will increase the chances of contamination.
 - o Have at least 4 litres of water per person per day for drinking, food preparation, personal hygiene and dishwashing.
 - o If you have pets, don't forget to store extra water for them.
- If your water system loses all its pressure and no water comes out of the faucets, make sure that you have your well water tested before using it.
 - o If you have a treatment system for your well, make sure it is running properly once the power is back on.
 - o Before drinking the water, flush all lines by letting the water run for a few minutes.
- If you have a back-up power generator, use the water as you did before the power failure.

FLOODING

- Flooding can contaminate well water with sewage and other pollutants.
- During a flood, don't use well water for drinking, cooking, bathing, showering or brushing teeth.
- After a flood, you should boil water (for at least 2 minutes at a rolling boil) before consumption. You should also get the water tested as soon as possible.
- If there was no flooding around the well/ discoloration of water, use the water as you did before the storm.
 - o As an added precaution, you can complete a short flushing of the lines for 5 minutes.

Get more information on testing for drinking water at PEI Analytical Laboratories

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