

GREEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- PRESS RELEASE-

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FLOOD CLEAN UP

For Immediate Release

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608-328-9390

This week, Green County had experienced significant flooding. The Green County Health Department is advising the public of the potential health hazards due to the flooding. Below are guidelines from the Green County Health Department.

Private Wells and Drinking Water

If your private well has flooded, assume it is contaminated.

Signs and steps to take:

- Floodwaters come into contact or run over the top of your well
- You have a shallow well and live near areas that have been flooded.
- Check the water for cloudiness, color or an unusual smell
- Find alternative sources of water or use bottled water
- Properly disinfect the private well
- Test water after disinfection

Green County Health Department has well water testing kits available. Please call 608-328-9390 or visit www.greencountyhealth.org for more information.

Cleaning and Mold

For cleaning, wear an N95 mask (available at a hardware store). Once the damaged material inside the house has been removed, use a solution of 1 cup bleach to 1 gallon of water to thoroughly clean all surfaces touched by flood waters as well as any exhibiting signs of mold. (Note: never mix products containing ammonia—which can be found in many cleaners—with bleach, as a harmful gas will form and can cause serious injury.)

Basements

If your basement is flooded with standing water, gradually release 2-3 inches per day. By doing this you will decrease your chances of the basement floor and walls cracking and collapsing.

Once you have all the standing water removed from the basement, check that all electrical hazards have been removed (if you have concerns, contact a building inspector or the utility company).

Damaged or wet flooring, carpeting, furniture, drywall, insulation, books, children's stuffed animals, etc., should be removed and disposed of to prevent mold growth and to prevent the spread of illness and disease. Keep watch for any sewage back-up. Avoid water containing human waste. Be sure to thoroughly clean areas where the sewage has been.

Available resources for more information:

- Search "Coping with flooding" at the WI DNR website
N3150 Highway 81 · Monroe, WI 53566 · (608)328-9390·greencountyhealth.org

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- www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/flood

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