



DeKalb County Cooperative Extension

AFTER THE FLOOD: WELLS AND SEPTIC TANKS

When the flood waters subside it is safest to assume your well water is not safe to drink. Contact your local health department or county extension office to test your well water. If your well is contaminated you need to disinfect it. A commonly used process is called shock chlorination that uses chlorine to treat bacterial contamination.

Do not use the septic system until the water in the absorption field is lower than the water level around the house. The system should be professionally inspected and serviced if you suspect damage. If any sewage backed up into your basement, be sure to clean and disinfect the area. You can use a solution of one-half cup of chlorine bleach to each gallon of water. Wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, long pants and a long sleeved shirt to clean. Wash these clothes separately from other clothing.

For more information contact your local health department or county extension office at (404) 298-4080.