



Dear Well Owners Network Member:

We hope this finds you and your family safe and well...no pun intended! There's so much happening in our lives right now, but we have been working hard on your summer news to prepare you for the hot months ahead. Whitney M. Young said it best, "It is better to be prepared for an opportunity and not have one than to have an opportunity and not be prepared." The same is also true for hurricane season which we are now in; better to be prepared for the storm and not have one than to have a storm and not be prepared.

We also discuss concerns that you may have on COVID-19, the use of splashless bleach, and conserving water so your well doesn't go dry in the heat of the summer.

Let's get down to business so we can enjoy summer!

Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Flooding...Oh My!



We know with everything else going on in the world the last thing you want to think about is having to prepare for a natural disaster. However, it is a task you should tackle to protect you and your family.

Storm Prep

Before disaster strikes, make a plan. Consider specific needs of your household and use [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) to put your plan into action. They have great tips and resources plus [Build a Kit](#) which gives you a list of

supplies you need to weather the storm. One of the biggest needs is safe water! You will need to store at least one gallon of water per person per day for three days for drinking and sanitation. However, individual needs vary. Keep in mind the following:

- Children, nursing mothers, and sick people may need more water.
- A medical emergency might require additional water.
- If you live in a warm weather climate more water may be necessary.

If you are in an area where the power goes out often during storms, you may consider purchasing a generator to power your well pump at very least. Note that you should not use the generator if flooding has occurred. More information is provided on flooding below. If you are planning on purchasing a generator, finding the right size is imperative. [Consumer Reports has information on sizing a generator for your home needs](#). You can also contact your licensed well contractor for assistance.

After the Storm

Once the storm has passed, you will need to assess the property, including your well and septic.

If in doubt about your water supply or if you have flooding, do not drink or cook with the water.

Moving flood water or high winds can carry large debris that could loosen well hardware, dislodge well construction materials, or distort casing. Coarse sediment in flood waters could erode pump components. If the well is not tightly capped, sediment, debris, and flood water could enter the well and contaminate it. Older wells and wells that are less than 50 feet deep are more susceptible to contamination. **Visually inspect** your wellhead (cap and casing) and above ground well components for damage.

After flood waters have receded and the pump and electrical system have dried, **do not turn on the equipment** until the wiring system has been checked by a qualified electrician, well or pump contractor. Remember that there is **danger of electrical shock** from any electrical device that has been flooded. Rubber boots and gloves are not adequate protection from electrical shock.

Test your water for bacteria at minimum before using it. Contact your local health department to see if they are offering any free or low cost testing due to flooding or [find a state certified laboratory using our interactive map](#). The wellcare® Hotline also has a limited supply of *FREE* do-it-yourself bacteria test kits. If you experience flooding and need an emergency test, contact the Hotline at 888.395.1033.

In most emergency situations, obtaining bottled water is the most commonly promoted way to access safe drinking water. We hope you prepped an emergency water supply per above. If you haven't, there are **treatment methods you can use when the quality of water is compromised** during an emergency and it is not possible to obtain bottled water. But before considering such an approach contact the local health authorities to assure the emergency has not introduced any chemical contaminants of concern into your well system. If the water only needs to be disinfected to be potable, there are 4 main options to treat water to make it safe for consumption: boiling, chlorination, distillation, and water treatment devices certified for microbial reduction of bacteria, cysts, and viruses. Do not rely on water treatment filters or devices that are NOT certified for microbial reduction as they may not provide the protection necessary for emergency situations. Consult a water treatment professional, manufacturer, or [Water Quality Association's website](#) for more information.

Septic systems should not be used immediately after floods.

Drainfields will not work until water has receded. Septic lines may have

been broken during flooding or other storms. Contact your septic service immediately for inspection.

Additional information and instructions for emergency disinfection can be found in our [Emergencies & Disasters and Wells sheet](#).

Well Disinfection and Splashless Bleach

It can be difficult to find disinfecting products of any kind right now, but if you are looking for products to disinfect your well do not purchase splashless bleach.

Splashless bleach is a little thicker than regular household bleach. It is less likely to splash, but the sodium hypochlorite concentration is only 1-5%. It isn't strong enough to sanitize and disinfect, as the label warns, and you will be left with a lot of suds in your water! [Read our instructions for disinfecting](#) or call your licensed well contractor for assistance.

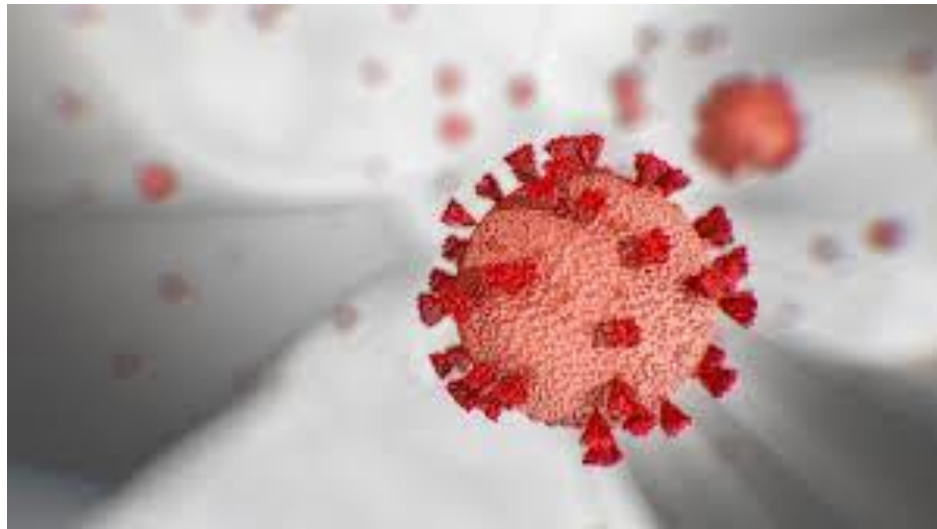


Please note we do not recommend disinfection as regular maintenance. Disinfection is only used when a new well is drilled, flooding occurs, after a well is serviced, if harmful bacterias are found, if the well has been sitting without use for an extended period of time, or if directed by your licensed well contractor.

If you have already used the splashless kind, you will need to flush your well system longer than directed on our instructions. The smell of bleach tends to go away quickly, but you may notice you are left with suds in your water. Use an outside hose to flush outdoors. Be careful to avoid areas that drain into lakes or streams because it can kill fish and other aquatic life.

Likewise, the solution can kill grass and shrubs, as well as disrupt septic systems. A good choice may be a backyard ditch (make sure the ditch is not connected to a lake or stream) or side area that will partially contain the solution while it is absorbed by the soil. Flush for an hour then turn off for two hours. Repeat until suds are gone. A retest of your water should be conducted to confirm the water is safe before resuming use.

What You Should Know About COVID-19



Based on current evidence, the risk to drinking water supplies is low.

Your Well Water

Currently, COVID-19 has not been detected in drinking water sources. Many soils aid in removing viruses which is great news for wellowners. There are water treatment methods such as filtration and disinfection that should remove or inactivate COVID-19. That does not mean go out and buy these types of water treatment systems. Buying unnecessary water treatment can cause more harm than good.

Your Septic System

COVID-19 has been found in untreated wastewater. Researchers do not know whether this virus can cause disease if a person is exposed to

untreated wastewater. There is no evidence to date. However, the risk of transmission of COVID-19 through properly designed and maintained septic systems is thought to be low. Additionally, when properly installed, your septic system is located at a distance and location designed to avoid impacting your water well.

What You Can Do

Your best protection is making sure your well and septic systems are maintained properly. Refer to our [spring 2020 newsletter](#) or our [information sheets](#) for maintaining your well and septic or contact your licensed well contractor and septic service provider for assistance. We will continue to update you as new information becomes available. Please check our [COVID-19 resource page](#) and social media for updates.

Hotline HOT Topic: Water Delivery & Low-Yielding Wells



Several times a year our wellcare® Hotline receives inquiries on whether it is okay to have water delivered for their well. The short answer is no.

If you suspect your well is going dry, do not attempt to put water in your well to fill it. Adding water to the well unnaturally can damage the well's borehole and components like your pump. Additionally, water from outside sources is usually chlorinated and can contaminate your well water.

Instead, consider options to use a cistern (large storage tank). Water can be brought in to fill the cistern directly. You can also have the well hooked to the cistern so the well will slowly fill the cistern if it has enough water to do so.

Another option is hydrofracturing or hydraulic fracturing. Hydrofracturing is a well development process that involves injecting water under high pressure into a bedrock formation through the existing well. It is usually applied to low yielding wells to increase the flow of water into a well.

Lower cost options include specific valves, floats, or sensors that can help stop the pump from pumping if the water level in the well and or cistern gets too low. This can allow the well to rest and hopefully recover on its own.

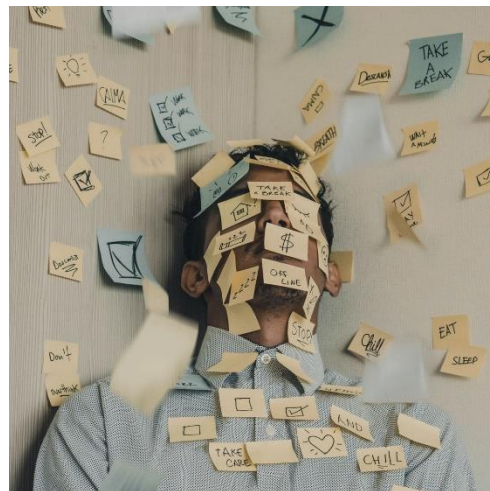
Contact your licensed well contractor to determine your current water level, recovery rate, and to discuss the best option(s). If you need to locate a licensed well contractor in your area try [our interactive map](#).

Download our [Coping with Low Water Levels](#) information sheet for more tips.

Drought Creates Stress

Not sure about you, but we don't want any more stress! Unfortunately, drought happens somewhere in the country every year stressing our resources.

When reservoir water levels get lower and groundwater tables drop, water supplies, human health, wildlife, and the environment are put at serious risk. For instance, lower water levels can contribute to higher concentrations of natural and human pollutants.



It's easy to forget that water is also used in ways we don't see every day - to grow food, manufacture goods, keep businesses running, and to meet the nation's energy needs.

The average family uses more than 300 gallons of water per day at home and 70 percent of this use occurs indoors. Nationally, outdoor water use accounts for 30 percent of household use. This can be higher in drier parts of the country and those with more water-intensive landscapes.

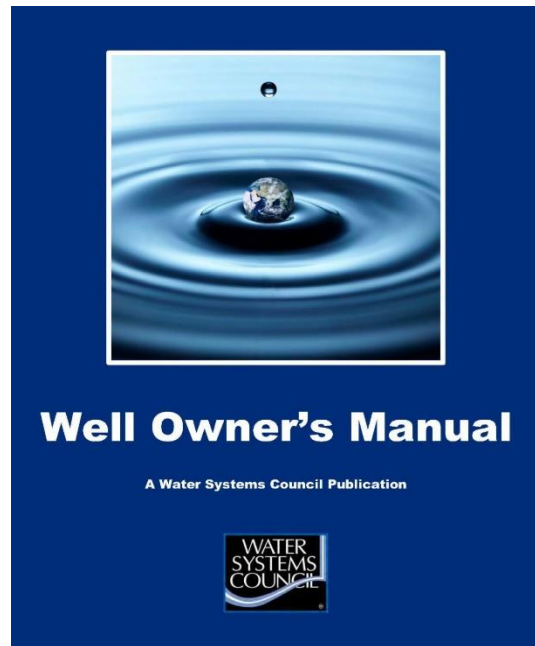
Public water suppliers are doing their part to help their customers save water. What can well owners do? Glad you asked. First, we think it is important to know how much water you are using, especially for well owners since we do not receive a water bill that tells us. This [Water Footprint Calculator](#) is the best we've seen. It is very thorough and at the end you can have the report emailed to you.

Water conservation practices can mean the difference between getting through a dry spell or the cost and inconvenience of having the well run dry. Try to limit the demand on your well by spreading out your daily and weekly water-use activities, such as bathing, watering the garden, and washing dishes or clothes. Use a water delivery service for large water uses like filling a pool rather than using your well. Take the time to repair dripping faucets or leaking toilets. Invest in water-efficient fixtures for faucets and showerheads and replace older toilets with low-flow models. Even seemingly small measures can save thousands of gallons of water per year! [Find out how much you can save](#) and a [list of efficient products](#). And keep an eye on the [Drought Monitor map](#) throughout the summer.

More information can be found by downloading our free [information sheet on Drought and Your Well](#).

More *FREE* Resources

Visit our [free Resources page](#) to download copies or [email us](#) to have hard copies mailed to you.



Still Have Questions?

We can help! Call the wellcare® Hotline at 888-395-1033, [complete an online form](#), [send us an email](#), or [chat with us live!](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



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