



Scott County Health Department

600 W. 4th Street | Davenport, IA 52801-1030 | P. 563-326-8618 | F. 563-326-8774
health@scottcountyiowa.com | www.scottcountyiowa.com/health

RE: Clean-up After the Flood

Safety Practices:

Before you begin flood clean-up or the shock chlorination process, dress in appropriate safety clothing and equipment. Wear goggles to avoid contact with eyes, a pair of rubber gloves to protect your hands and rubber boots, as well as a waterproof suit, coveralls or a full-length apron to prevent discoloration of your clothing.

Directions to shock chlorinate your private well:

1. For wells of 100 feet or less, pour one gallon of liquid chlorine bleach directly into the well. Add an extra one gallon for each additional 100 feet of depth.
2. If possible, connect a garden hose to a nearby faucet and wash down the inside of the well for about 15 minutes.
3. Open each faucet (hot and cold) inside and outside the house one at a time and let the water run. Close the faucet after a strong odor of chlorine is detected. If a strong odor of chlorine cannot be detected, add more chlorine bleach to the well.
4. Let the water stand for 12-24 hours. Do not run any water at this time.
5. Flush the system of remaining chlorine bleach. Do this, one faucet at a time, starting with the outside faucet(s). This order will reduce the load on your septic system. Let each faucet run until chlorine bleach odor is no longer noticeable.
6. A water sample should be collected and analyzed for bacteria.
Contact the Scott County Health Department at (563) 326-8618 to have your water well sample tested before using again.

This is the recommended procedure and a guideline only. If you are not comfortable performing this procedure personally, please call a licensed contractor to shock chlorinate your well for you.

Directions for personal hygiene:

After completing the cleanup or the shock chlorination process, wash your hands with soap and warm water. Use water that has been boiled for one minute (allow the water to cool before washing your hands), or you may use water that has been disinfected for personal hygiene use (solution of 1/8 teaspoon of chlorine bleach per one gallon of water). Let the solution stand for 30 minutes.

