

# About My Well and Water

## Water

Date water was last tested: \_\_\_\_\_

## Treatment or Filters in Place

Whole-house treatment

\_\_\_\_\_

If not a whole-house system,  
which taps have filters installed?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of bottled water in the house:

\_\_\_\_\_

Where it's stored:

\_\_\_\_\_

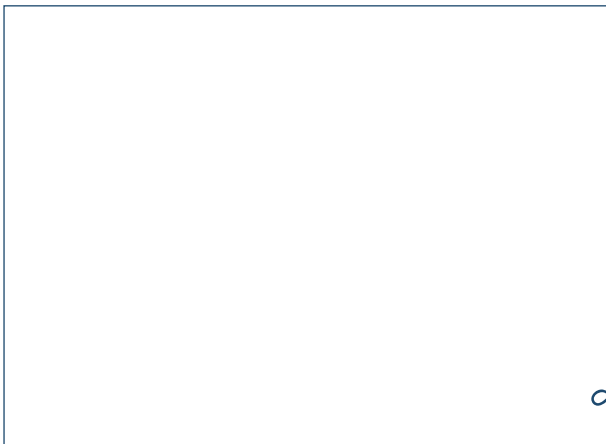
*To be prepared for an emergency, store enough bottled water to last for at least three days. You should have at least one gallon of water per person per day.*

## Well and Plumbing

Location of well:

\_\_\_\_\_

Map:



## Questions About Your Water:

Center for Drinking Water Quality

**401-222-6867**

[doh.ridwq@health.ri.gov](mailto:doh.ridwq@health.ri.gov)

Tip sheets about testing, treatment, harmful substances and more are posted online at  
For a full list of certified laboratories, visit  
[www.riweltesting.org](http://www.riweltesting.org)

## Questions About Well Water Testing:

Rhode Island State Health Laboratories

**401-222-5600**

50 Orms St.

Providence, RI 02904

For a full list of certified laboratories, visit  
[www.health.ri.gov/find/labs/drinkingwater](http://www.health.ri.gov/find/labs/drinkingwater)



Rhode Island Department of Health  
Center for Drinking Water Quality  
Private Well Program



# Keep Your Well Water Safe in an Emergency

Disasters like blizzards, fires, and floods can damage your well or cause power outages and make your water unsafe to drink. Many problems are hard to see, and some can be very expensive to fix. The most common problem after a natural disaster is **contamination** of your well. This happens when something unsafe gets into the well water. Things that can be bad for your water include bacteria, salt, sewage, and chemicals (like gasoline). There might also be **physical damage** to the well or parts of your drinking water system. Your drinking water could become unsafe, or you might have no water at all.

This guide will help you know what to do in the event of an emergency.

## General Rules to Follow During or After a Disaster or Emergency:

### Do

- Test your water only at a certified lab. (See back of pamphlet for list of labs.)
- When public officials say it is safe to go outside, check for damage to the well and other parts of your water system.
- Check the news on TV, radio, or internet for up-to-date information, or call your local emergency officials.
- Talk to your neighbors who also have private wells and share information.

### Do Not

- Drink tap water if there is any chance that it might not be safe. Remember, you cannot see, smell, or taste some kinds of contamination.
- Bleach your well without following directions. You can cause chlorine poisoning, chemical burns, and damage to your water system. Also, you may not kill all the bacteria.
- Try to do any plumbing repairs yourself.

**If something happens in your town, city, or neighborhood that you think may have affected your well, call your local officials or the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Center for Drinking Water Quality. 401-222-6867**

## Contamination in Your Well

You cannot see, smell, or taste many things that might be in your well water, and some bacteria can cause health problems. You should use bottled water or water brought in by officials from a known, safe source) if:

- Anything from the outside could have gotten into your well or parts of your water system;
- The area around your wellhead floods;
- Your pump stops working or your well overflows; or
- Septic systems or sewers in your neighborhood are damaged.

Use bottled water for drinking until a certified lab test shows that there are no health risks in your water. You may need to make repairs and bleach (or 'shock') the well before the water is safe to drink again. You may also need to replace any water filter cartridges in refrigerators or water pitchers that the untested water went through. For more information about different contaminants and a step-by-step guide to shocking your well, see our Tip Sheets online at [www.rivelltesting.org](http://www.rivelltesting.org)

**Ice makers, refrigerator filters, vending machines, and coffee machines do not kill bacteria or remove most contaminants. To check if an appliance can sanitize water (boil [at 212°F for at least one minute to kill bacteria) or is certified to remove any contaminants, contact the manufacturer.**

## About My Well and Water

Date when someone last looked at, inspected, or checked the well and system parts:

\_\_\_\_\_

Location of pump's power switch:

\_\_\_\_\_

Location where main water pipe and electric for pump enter the house:

\_\_\_\_\_

Backup power:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact information for my well professional:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Local Emergency Contacts

Fire Department:

\_\_\_\_\_

City Hall:

\_\_\_\_\_

Other:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Rhode Island Department of Health  
**401-222-5960**  
[health.ri.gov](http://health.ri.gov)

Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency  
**401-946-9996**  
[www.riema.ri.gov](http://www.riema.ri.gov)

