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Water Hotline: 931-3733

AFFECTED BY THE FLOOD OF JUNE 2005; OR INFECTED?

An alarming rate of well contamination has been reported due to the extreme rain & flooding residents experienced earlier this summer!

"According to Health Canada's *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (6th Edition, 1996)*; drinking water should not contain more than 10 total coliform bacteria per 100 mL of water...the maximum acceptable concentration of *E. coli* is "zero"...water containing *E. coli* is not safe to drink. Corrective action should be taken immediately. It is necessary to shock treat the well and, if possible, find and eliminate the source of contamination. If the source of contamination cannot be found and eliminated, the water should subsequently receive continuous disinfection.

Testing Well Water for Microbiological Contamination

Existing wells should be tested two or three times a year. The best time to sample your well water is when the probability of contamination is greatest. This is likely to be in early spring just after the thaw, after an extended dry spell, following heavy rains or after lengthy periods of non-use.

Bacteriological testing of well water is done either by the provincial health laboratory in your area or by a certified private laboratory. They will supply you with a clean, sterile sample bottle and the necessary instructions. Samples collected in any other container will not yield meaningful results and will not be accepted by the laboratory. In all instances, samples should be refrigerated immediately and transported to the laboratory within 24 hours.

If you have experienced gastrointestinal illness and suspect that it might be associated with your well water, consult your physician and local health unit."

1) Health Canada www.hc-sc.gc.ca

Additionally, Alberta Environment recommends private well owners should have a well shock chlorination performed annually.

2) Alberta Environment www.gov.ab.ca



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO OBTAIN AN ELECTRONIC COPY
OF OUR "Acreage Owner Water System Information Guide",
PLEASE CALL OUR WATER HOTLINE AT 931-3733**

www.acreswestwater.com