



Is my drinking water safe to drink?

Information for Homeowners During and After a Flood

Homeowners using drinking water from a city or other public water system:

- Watch for public announcements regarding the safety of your water supply. Or, check www.larimer.org/health for information.

Homeowners using private wells for drinking water:

- Flooded wells will likely be contaminated with bacteria.
- If your well-water water has an uncharacteristic and strong chemical taste or odor, it may be contaminated with chemicals. If chemical contamination is suspected, contact the health department at 498-6775.
- Use bottled water until advised by health authorities that your water is safe to drink.
- Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, cooking, making ice, washing dishes and brushing teeth. Continue to use boiled or bottled water until testing shows your water is safe. If you need to have your water tested, call 498-6775 or find information at <http://larimer.org/health/ehs/drinking.asp>
- Because of special concerns for infants, use only bottled water to mix formula or canned baby formula that requires no additional water be added.

Drinking contaminated water can cause illness.

- If you become ill after drinking contaminated water, you should seek medical attention.
- The usual symptoms of illness from drinking unsafe water include upset stomach, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, cramps and headaches.
- Children (especially infants), pregnant women (http://www.marchofdimes.com/pregnancy/stayingsafe_disaster.html), the elderly, and those who have existing health conditions or severely

compromised immune systems are at greater risk of developing complications. Therefore, it is important that they seek medical care if symptoms become worse or do not get better.

If you have questions about your drinking water, call your local water treatment utility office or:

- Larimer County Department of Health and Environment: 498-6775
<http://www.larimer.org/health/ehs/water.asp>
- Fort Collins Utilities: 221-6700, utilities@fcgov.com
- City of Loveland, Water Division: 962-3000
<http://www.ci.loveland.co.us/wp/water/>
- Town of Estes Park: 586-5331,
<http://www.estesnet.com/lightpower/waterdefault.aspx>

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