

# Floods

## Drinking water and Flood water

### Drinking water

Drinking water may be contaminated by flood waters and contain bacteria that could make you sick.

If your drinking water comes:

- from a municipal water system, follow directions issued by the municipality or authorities before consuming.
- from your well, consider the water undrinkable.

To drink water, prepare food or brush your teeth:

- Use bottled water or bring tap water to a full rolling boil for at least one minute before using.
- If water is cloudy or has an unusual odour, don't boil it. Use bottled water instead.
- Wait at least 10 days after floodwater has receded before disinfecting your well and having the water analyzed (follow the procedure set by the [ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les Changements climatiques](#) (in French)).

### Flood water

Water that is currently flooding homes may contain bacteria or chemicals and contaminate surfaces and objects, cause infections, skin irritations and gastroenteritis. Follow these instructions when you come into contact with flood water.

- Put on rubber gloves to handle stained objects, and wear boots at all times to avoid contact with water and wet objects, as the risk of infection is great.
- Use a protective mask and safety goggles when cleaning, even if surfaces are dry, as they may still be contaminated.
- Wash your hands frequently, as there may be a risk of contamination.
- Avoid eating in flooded areas.

If you have health questions, call  
**Info-Santé or Info-Social at 8-1-1**  
**[santemontreal.qc.ca](http://santemontreal.qc.ca)**