



Safe Drinking Water
(Not from a municipal system)

Is Your Water Safe To Drink?



Private Well

- Avoid drinking untreated water from private wells that have become flooded, or if contamination is suspected. Private wells that have been affected by flooding will need to be disinfected and tested after flood waters recede. Water wells that have been impacted by heavy rains should also be tested before they are considered safe for using.
- **If you suspect or have been advised that your water is unsafe, use bottled, boiled, or distilled water for drinking, cooking, preparation of any foods, washing your hands, bathing, or brushing your teeth.**



What Can I Do To Make My Water Safe?

The Calgary Health Region recommends that you refer to the following general rules concerning water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene:



- Note: If your source water has been contaminated by chemicals or you suspect chemical contamination, the following disinfection methods may not make the water safe to drink. You must get water from some other safe source (i.e. Bottled).



Boiling: (preferred method during a boil water advisory)



- Place water in a clean cooking container. If the water is cloudy, strain it using a cheese cloth or coffee filter.
- Bring the water to a **rolling boil** for at least **1 minute**.
- Prepare the water ahead of time, cool in the refrigerator overnight.

Chlorination:



- For **clear water** – add **2 drops** of unscented **5.25%** household bleach to **1 litre** of water, **mix thoroughly** and let stand for **30 minutes**. If there is a slight chlorine smell and looks clear, the water is safe to drink.
- For **cloudy water** – add **4 drops** of unscented **5.25%** household bleach to **1 litre** of water, **mix thoroughly** and let stand for **30 minutes**. If there is no chlorine smell, add **4 more drops** of bleach and let stand for another **30 minutes**.
- Water purification tablets can also be purchased from most outdoor supply / camping stores. Follow manufacturer's instructions.





Iodine Crystals: (available at outdoor equipment/camping stores)



- Note: Because of potential thyroid problems or iodine sensitivity, iodine use is recommended for no more than 3 weeks per season.
- Place **4-8 grams** of elemental iodine crystals in a 30ml (1 ounce) clear glass bottle. Fill the bottle with water, shake, and let settle.
- Add **15ml** (3 teaspoons) of the iodine solution from the bottle to **1 litre** of water that is already in another storage container. Solid crystals remaining in the small bottle must not be transferred to the water in the storage container.
- Let the water stand for **15 minutes**.
- As long as there are iodine crystal in the small glass bottle, the procedure can be repeated.

Tincture of Iodine:

- Add **6 drops** of tincture of iodine(2%) to **1 litre** of water.
- Let stand for **30 minutes**.



For more information contact: Calgary Health Region at **943-LINK**