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After floods, residents are encouraged to test their water Certified systems are available to protect against contamination

Lisle, Illinois -- In the wake of extreme floods in California, the Water Quality Association reminds residents to have their drinking water tested by a [certified lab](#) and if necessary, find water treatment products that have undergone independent testing for safety and performance. Visit WQA's website for the Association's [Flooding Factsheet](#).

Health officials have warned of the dangers of contamination following flooding. "Events like this remind us of the need for clean and safe drinking water," David Loveday, WQA Government Affairs Director. "WQA has dedicated its resources to stringent testing to help ensure consumers can find the right product for them."

Five Things to Know

WQA recommends residents affected by flooding use bottled water for drinking and cooking until they know for sure that their tap water is safe. The safety of a home's water supply, both private or municipal, may be affected by power outages.

Well owners affected by the storm are encouraged to test their systems and seek appropriate remedies as soon as possible. During and after flooding, water can become contaminated with microorganisms such as bacteria, sewage, heating oil, agricultural or industrial waste, chemicals and other substances that can cause serious illness.

Be alert for local boil water orders. Flooding can cause disruptions with a municipal water source, prompting officials to issue boil water orders in many communities. A WQA guide to boil water order notices can be found [here](#).

Existing water treatment equipment should be inspected for possible contamination.

Residents should consider protecting their tap water either with a whole house system or at the tap treatment with a certified water treatment product depending upon the results of a water test. To have your water tested contact a water treatment professional or state [certified lab](#).

[Water Treatment for Dummies](#) booklet will help guide consumers to the correct water treatment solution. Before heading to a retailer or shopping online for a product, they can visit WQA's website to search [product certification listings](#) and to look for certified [water treatment professionals](#) in their area.

WQA is a not-for-profit trade association representing the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment industry. Since 1959, the WQA Gold Seal certification program has been certifying products that contribute to the safe consumption of water. The WQA Gold Seal program is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Standards Council of Canada (SCC).

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