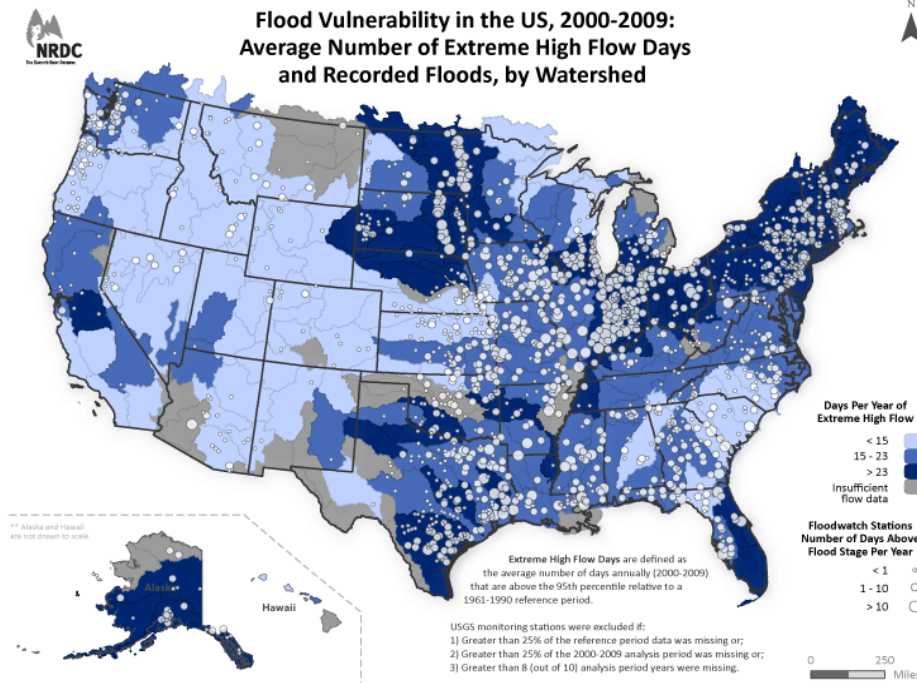


# Flooding Precautions

## The Challenge:



Source: NRDC (2009)

## Our Industry's Solutions:

### Have The Well Tested/Disinfected.

Water may not be safe to drink, cook or clean with after an emergency such as a flood. 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. People with private drinking water wells in flooded areas can take precautions and have their water tested and disinfected after a flood. Well disinfection will not provide protection from pesticides, heavy metals and other types of non-biological contamination. If such contamination is suspected, due to the nearness of these contaminant sources, Point-of-Use and Point-of-Entry (POU/POE) - whole house or at the tap water treatment - can be used. To learn more about POU/POE treatment systems contact a water treatment professional. If a treatment system has already been installed, contact a water treatment professional after a flood to make sure the treatment system is continuing to work properly.

### Product Certification.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredits certification bodies (ex. WQA Gold Seal and WQA Sustainability Programs) to test and certify products to the material safety requirement and contaminant reduction claim(s) as specified by the standard. Products that display the certification body's seal provides assurance that they have been rigorously tested and meet the requirements of the standard, program policies, and plant inspection policies. Visit WQA.org for a full list of WQA certified products.

### Professional Certification.

Professional certification allows consumers to reach water treatment professionals that have an expertise in water chemistry and POU/POE systems - whole house or at the tap water treatment - water quality improvement. Visit WQA.org to find a water treatment provider and certified professionals in your area.

## Flooding Precautions

WQA feels strongly that to protect public health and the environment, contractors and installers of water treatment need to be competent in:

- Correctly sizing treatment system based on treatment capacity, distribution flow rates and available pressure
- Properly adjusting system operation parameters such as the service & regeneration cycles to maximize efficiency in water and regenerate use while insuring the needed level of system performance as appropriate for specific applicants
- Properly maintaining systems to insure effectiveness of pre-treatment and cleaning cycles. The installer often has the final opportunity to remind the customer of the critical maintenance procedures. An RO system for reduction of nitrates will not protect consumer health if the membrane's been degraded by chlorine because the carbon pre-filter was not replaced in time.

*Find Certified Products*

*Find Water Treatment Providers*

*Find Certified Professionals*

WQA training incorporates water treatment and plumbing topics for both installers and contractors:

- Understanding of aesthetic contaminants, USEPA Primary and Secondary drinking water standards
- Water testing and analysis
- Operation of treatment technologies (i.e. how does the technology work, pitfalls, maintenance requirements)
- Treatment system capacity calculations
- Service and cleaning requirements and cycle settings
- Water contaminants and water testing (to check system performance following installation)
- Treatment system sizing
- Sales/business ethics specific to water treatment sales
- Building demand calculations based on fixture counts
- Importance of positive pressure and sources of pressure loss in distribution systems
- Pipe sizing
- Backflow prevention, with emphasis on air gap
- Water chemistry (contractors)

### About WQA:

The Water Quality Association (WQA) has thousands of members nationwide and internationally, including major corporations as well as family-owned businesses that are involved in the water treatment industry.

Dedicated to consumer education and public awareness, the Water Quality Association is a not-for-profit trade group of businesses that provide treatment solutions for safe, clean water throughout the world – in homes, schools, commercial and industrial settings, and more. WQA promotes best practices for superior products and environmental sustainability with the guidance of respected, independent standards. Its labs conduct rigorous testing and certification, and training programs promote professionalism and ethics. Learn more: [wqa.org](http://wqa.org)