



Frequently Asked Questions About Tanks and Wells and Tetanus Shots

What can I do to protect the well at my home from flooding?

You should set aside a supply of clean water before taking your well out of service. Then you should disconnect the power supply to your well. To the best of your ability, seal your well. That may include replacing the well vent with a water-tight plug. Then you can take a heavy-duty trash bag, or something like it, and cover the top of the well. Seal the top of the well to keep out dirt and other contaminants. Remember – you will still need to test your well and maybe disinfect it after the flood.

Is there anything I should do to prepare my fuel tank in case my property is flooded?

The first thing you should do is to tie your tank down so prevent it from floating or otherwise moving in the flood. You should cover any vents on the tank if the water level is expected to go over the tank. That will keep the water out of the tank. It is also smart to empty the fuel and fill the tank with water. That will help keep it from floating away.

How can I prepare my septic tank for flooding?

One important step is to fill your tank with liquids. That will keep the tank from floating out of the ground during flooding. Another important step to take doesn't directly involve your septic tank. You should plug your floor drains to keep sewage from backing up into your basement. Remember, you still make get flood water through cracks and seems in your home's basement.

Do the floods mean I need to get a tetanus shot?

You should check your tetanus vaccination history if you are working or wading in flood waters, and get a vaccination if you have not had one in the last ten years or do not know when you had your last vaccination. However, flood water itself does not put you at risk of getting tetanus.

The concern is that the work done in responding to or cleaning up after a flood, or any disaster, is likely to increase your chances of being injured.

If you are injured, especially with an open wound, cut or puncture, you should be seen and evaluated by a physician. You should get a tetanus shot if you have been injured and your last tetanus shot was more than five years ago, or if you are injured and do not know the last time you had a tetanus shot.

How can I protect myself from injury or infection during and after a flood?

Wash often with soap and water. You should wear protective clothing such as hard-soled shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts and heavy work gloves. Take care of any wounds right away by washing hands first, cleaning the wound with soap and water, patting the wound dry and applying a clean, dry dressing; then see your doctor to determine if you need a tetanus shot. The best tetanus vaccine is one that also will protect you from diphtheria and pertussis. (Also called a Tdap)

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