



After a Flood: Sewage

Floods can bring sewage into your house or on your property. Sewage has bacteria and chemicals that can make you and your family sick. As well, when things are wet, electricity is dangerous. People still need to be careful after a flood.

If your city or community told you to leave your house during the flood, check with them before you go home.

First steps

- Shut off the power if you can do it safely.
- Call or email your insurance company and your city or town.
- Walk around your house or property. Make notes or take pictures of damage.
- Keep your children away or watch them closely. Don't let them play in flood waters.
- If you are uncertain what to do, talk with a professional cleaning company.

Cleaning up

- Wear rubber gloves, rubber boots, goggles, and coveralls. You may also need a mask.
- If you get any cuts or sores, treat them quickly. Ask a doctor or call 811 for advice.
- Think about getting help from professionals. Look up "Water Damage Restoration" in the Yellow Pages or search for it online.
- Remove the water within 2 days or 48 hours so that mould doesn't grow.
- Clean damaged or water-stained surfaces and appliances. Use warm water and soap. Then disinfect with bleach and water to kill mould.
- Dry all wet items as soon as you can.

After cleaning up

- Use a dehumidifier to remove moisture from the air inside your home.
- Take garbage to a landfill or waste disposal site. Do NOT put it out for regular garbage pick-up. It could make people sick.

More information

During and after emergencies: Food safety