

GUIDELINES FOR REESTABLISHMENT OF FLOODED HOMES SAFETY AND SANITATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. If the home has not been vacated during the flood period, wash or flush down walls and floors as fast as the flood waters recede.
2. If the home has been vacated, do not move the family back until there is:
 - a. electricity
 - b. an adequate water supply
 - c. toilet facilities available
 - d. heating system in working order
 - e. clean, dry bedding available

Do not bring children into the flood area during cleanup
3. In order to rehabilitate a home, adults (no children) may return but should **TAKE A SUPPLY OF SAFE DRINKING WATER WITH THEM**. If possible, drink store-bought bottled water that was not exposed to flood waters. **If bottled water is not available:**
 - a. Boil water to make it safe. If the water is cloudy, filter it using clean filter material or cloth. Alternatively, let the water settle and siphon off the clear water. Boil the water for three minutes, let it cool, and store it in clean, covered containers.
 - b. If you can't boil water, disinfect it using household bleach. If the water is cloudy, filter it using clean filter material or cloth. Alternatively, let the water settle and siphon off the clear water. Add 1/8 teaspoon (or 8 drops) of regular, unscented, liquid household bleach for each gallon of water, stir it well and let stand for 30 minutes. Store in clean, covered containers.
4. Be cautious entering a flooded basement. Have the local Utility Service shut off the electricity and gas line if possible. Do not handle any appliances, in-use electrical cords, or fuse boxes if the electricity is still on. Do not light a match in an enclosed area where gas could be present. Check all affected pilot lights or burners on gas-fired or oil-fired appliances before placing them back in service. If electricity is connected to an appliance that has had the motor controls submerged, do not attempt to start the appliance before consulting the appropriate appliance service company or dealer.
5. While a basement is still flooded, avoid flushing toilets or using other plumbing fixtures whose discharge could increase the hazard or make the basement more difficult to clean.
6. After the flood waters recede, drain surface pools by ditching or pumping. Drain all flooded basements by natural drainage or by pumping. Wash or flush down walls and floors, if possible, during the drainage or pumping process. For final

clean-up of walls, floors, cupboards, dishes, etc., use plenty of soap or dishwashing compound. Use warm or hot water if possible. Applicable areas should be disinfected using chlorine solution. Use eight (8) tablespoons or 1/2 cup regular, unscented, liquid household bleach per gallon of water. **During the clean-up period of basements or other enclosed areas, provide as much ventilation as possible by opening windows and using fans (if electricity is available and safe to use).**

7. Discard all bottled goods sealed with crimped caps that were in the flood. Destroy the contents to make certain that no one else will use such bottled goods. Discard all fruits or vegetables that were in contact with the flood water. Cans or jars of food should be thoroughly washed. Wash the outside of the can or jar with soap and hot water using a brush around the covers and rubber rings. The cans and jars should then be immersed in chlorinated water for at least 15 minutes using a solution of 1/8 teaspoon (or 8 drops) of regular, unscented, liquid household bleach for each gallon of water. Discard refrigerated food if the electricity has been off for more than 4 hours or if flood waters have risen above the bottom of the refrigerator door opening. Discard frozen food that has been thawed for more than 4 hours or if there is evidence that water has entered the freezer compartment. Any discarded food should be placed in covered vermin-proof receptacles until final pick-up or disposal.
8. Clothing, carpets, upholstered furniture, toys, bedding, and similar items should be discarded unless they can be cleaned and disinfected. Movable objects should be put outdoors and exposed to sunlight. Some salvage agencies or companies are equipped to process contaminated material without hazard to employees or eventual customers. Discarded items should not be left accessible to unauthorized scavengers pending pickup. Stores with flood-damaged merchandise are required to obtain clearance from either the local health department or the State Department of Agriculture before offering any such goods for sale.
9. Individuals should make certain that all clothing and parts of the body that come into contact with sewage are thoroughly washed and disinfected. Prevent the tracking of sewage into the living quarters of the house where possible.