

SAFETY ISSUES - General Information

Floodwater may contain sewage. Protect yourself and your family by following these steps for cleaning inside and outside of the home:

Inside the Home:

- Keep children and pets out of the affected area until cleanup has been completed.
- Wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, and goggles during cleanup of affected area.
- Thoroughly clean all hard surfaces (such as flooring, concrete, molding, wood and metal furniture, countertops, appliances, sinks, and other plumbing fixtures) with hot water and laundry or dish detergent, then disinfect with a solution of 1 cup household bleach to 5 gallons of water. (Note: this solution should not be used for drinking, cooking or personal hygiene).
- For items that cannot be washed or dry-cleaned, such as mattresses and upholstered furniture, air dry them in the sun and then spray them thoroughly with a disinfectant. Steam clean all carpeting.
- Remove and discard contaminated household materials that cannot be disinfected, such as wall coverings, clothes, rugs, and drywall.
- Help the drying process by using fans, air conditioning units, and dehumidifiers.
- After completing the cleanup, wash your hands and any other exposed body parts with soap and sanitized or disinfected water. If your water supply has been contaminated, use water that has been boiled for 1 minute (allow the water to cool before washing your hands).

Or you may use water that has been disinfected for personal hygiene use (solution of 1/8 teaspoon of household bleach per 1 gallon of water). Let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy, use solution of 1/4 teaspoon of household bleach per 1 gallon of water.

Wash all clothes worn during the cleanup in hot water and detergent. These clothes should be washed separately from uncontaminated clothes and linens. It is recommended that a laundromat be used for washing large quantities of clothes and linens until your onsite wastewater system has been professionally inspected and serviced. Seek immediate medical attention if you become injured or ill.

Outside the Home:

- Keep children and pets out of the affected area until cleanup has been completed.
- Wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, and goggles during cleanup of affected area.
- Have your onsite waste water system professionally inspected and serviced if you suspect damage.
- Wash all clothes worn during the cleanup in hot water and detergent. These clothes should be washed separately from uncontaminated clothes and linens.
- After completing the cleanup, wash your hands and any other exposed body parts with soap and sanitized or disinfected water.
- If your water supply has been contaminated, use water that has been boiled for 1 minute (allow the water to cool before washing your hands).

Or you may use water that has been disinfected for personal hygiene use (solution of 1/8 teaspoon of household bleach per 1 gallon of water). Let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy, use solution of 1/4 teaspoon of household bleach per 1 gallon of water.

- Seek immediate medical attention if you become injured or ill.