

Flood waters and sewer backups bring germs that can make you sick. Clean up as soon as possible to protect you and your family's health.



TIPS FOR CLEANUP

Hard Surfaces like linoleum, hardwood, concrete and tile floors, wood molding, metal and plastic furniture, ceramic bathroom fixtures, hard plastic and rubber containers.

1. Clean surface with soap and warm, clean water. Rinse.
2. Disinfect with household bleach or a similar product. Be sure to look at labels for instructions on how to use it right!

Drywall that is soft to the touch should be removed. If it is still hard, clean and disinfect it like other hard surfaces.

Dirty carpet and padding are difficult to clean and disinfect. Wrap in plastic after you remove them and throw away. Small rugs might be saved washing with hot water and detergent.

Open doors and windows for ventilation. Use fans and dehumidifiers to help dry your home quickly.



Wash your hands with soap and water after cleanup. Shower as soon as possible. Be sure to scrub your hands, face, and fingernails.



Throw away contaminated cardboard boxes, cloth toys and stuffed animals. Most plastic, metal, and rubber items can be cleaned.

EAT SAFELY

- Do not eat food exposed to dirty water unless canned or stored in waterproof containers. Sealed cans in good condition can be cleaned and used.
- Throw away contaminated food not in cans, and food in open, dented, bulging, or leaking cans.
- Throw away foods stored in cardboard containers (including juice, milk, and baby formula).
- If refrigerators or freezers have taken in water, discard all of the food stored there.
- Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator (meat, fish, cut fruits and vegetables, eggs, milk, and leftovers) after 4 hours without power or a cold source like dry ice. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color, or texture.
- Throw away wooden cutting boards, baby bottle nipples, and pacifiers.
- Clean everything that touches food like dishes, utensils, pots, and pans.

Other Important Information

If you develop diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, or other gastrointestinal symptoms, call your doctor. If you have additional health-related questions, contact your doctor or local health department.



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AGENCY (FEMA) MOBILE APP

* You can also download the FEMA Mobile App on Google Play and on the Apple App Store. In addition to real-time weather and emergency alerts, it can tell you if your location is eligible for FEMA assistance and find Disaster Recovery Center locations.

For More Information

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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AFTER THE FLOOD COMES THE CLEAN UP

*A Resource Guide for
Cleaning Up After
Flooding or Sewer
Backups*