

LIVINGSTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
2300 EAST GRAND RIVER SUITE 102
HOWELL, MICHIGAN 48843
517-546-9858

**SAFETY AND SANITATION INSTRUCTIONS
FOR FLOODED HOMES**

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 they should **TAKE A SUPPLY OF SAFE DRINKING WATER WITH THEM** in clean bottles or jugs. If possible, obtain water from a municipal source. In the event that municipal water cannot be obtained and water must be obtained from a private well outside the flood area, be sure to disinfect it with one of the common liquid laundry bleaches, such as Clorox or Roman Cleanser, etc., by adding three or four drops to each one gallon of water and mix and let stand for thirty minutes. This treatment will make the water safe, however, a chlorine like taste should be noticed.
4. Be cautious in entering a flooded basement relative to electric outlets and gas lines. Have the utility service department shut off the electricity and gas line if possible. **Do not** handle any connected electrical cords or appliances if the current is still on. Get assistance before attempting to disconnect cords or open the fuse box in a flooded basement. **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 which has had the motor controls submerged, **do not** attempt to start it until you have consulted your appliance service company or dealer.
5. While a basement is still flooded avoid flushing toilets or using other plumbing fixtures whose discharge would 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.

As a final clean-up of walls, floors, cupboards, dishes, etc., use plenty of soap or dishwashing compound. Use warm or hot water if possible. Areas may be disinfected by use of Lysol or chlorine solution. Use eight (8) tablespoons or ½ cup Clorex or Roman Cleanser 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 use of fans if electricity is available.

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 vegetables, such as potatoes, carrots, cabbage, onions, and others which were in contact with the flood water. Canned fruits and vegetables should be thoroughly washed. Wash the outside of the can with soap and hot water, using a brush around the covers and rubber rings. The cans and jars should be immersed in chlorinated water for at least 15 minutes using the same strength solution as recommended in #3 above.

Food stored in a refrigerator where the electricity has been off for more than 24 hours or where flood waters have risen above the door opening **should be discarded**. Potentially hazardous foods, such as meats and dairy products, **should be discarded** after 4 hours of power loss.

Food stored in a deep freeze unit where the electricity has been off for more than 72 hours should be examined carefully. If the food has not reached a temperature of 40°F or above, it could be refrozen and used without endangering health, however, the flavor and texture might be damaged. Food with a temperature above 40 F **should be discarded**. Food in a freezer where the door or lid has been submerged in flood water should be discarded if there is evidence that water has entered the freezer compartment.

Any discarded food or vegetables should be placed in covered vermin-proof receptacles until final pick-up or disposal.

8. Clothing, carpet, upholstered furniture, toys, bedding, and similar items should be discarded unless they are cleaned and disinfected immediately. Moveable objects should be put outdoors to dry and be exposed to sunlight. Some salvage agencies or companies are equipped to process contaminated material without hazard to employees or eventual customers. Discarded clothing should not be left accessible to unauthorized scavengers pending pick-up. 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. After cleaning the basement, the individual should make sure that all clothing and parts of the body which come in contact with the sewage are thoroughly washed. Prevent the tracking of sewage into the living quarters of the house.

For further information contact the **Livingston County Department of Public Health at 517-546-9858**.