



Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission

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After a Flood: Cleanup of Flood Water

When returning to your home after a hurricane or flood, be aware that flood water may contain sewage. Protect yourself and your family by following these steps:

Inside the Home

- Contact the owner of the property and advise him/her of the incident if you have not already done so.
- Contact your insurance agent. Your homeowners or tenant's insurance **may** cover some of your losses in cleanup costs.
- 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.
- Remove and discard items that cannot be washed and disinfected (such as, mattresses, carpeting, carpet padding, rugs, upholstered furniture, cosmetics, stuffed animals, baby toys, pillows, foam rubber items, books, wall coverings, and post paper products).
- Remove and discard drywall and insulation that has been contaminated with sewage or flood waters.
- 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.
- Disinfect and sanitize surfaces with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup bleach mixed with a gallon of cool water.
- Help the drying process by using fans, air conditioning units, and dehumidifiers.
- After completing the cleanup, wash your hands with soap and water.
- Wash all cloths worn during the cleanup in hot water and detergent. These clothes should be washed separately from uncontaminated cloths and linens.
- Wash clothes contaminated with flood or sewage water in hot water and detergent.
- You should be sure to maintain a list of items, and their value, that you feel was destroyed by flood waters for insurance purposes or for possible reimbursement by the Federal Government.
- Take pictures of damages to support any claims. Date each picture, explain on the rear what is shown and if possible have a friend witness picture and sign rear of photo.
- If you need further information, please call the health department at 732-356-8090.