

Flood Info

Facts about Flood Water:

This water is **CONTAMINATED**. Your business/home is downstream of hundreds of cows and septic tanks, chemicals of various kinds, and many other things. This means that the water has potentially hazardous bacteria and chemicals that could make you sick. Protect you and your family by wearing gloves and rubber boots. Do not let young children play in the flood water. Get a tetanus shot if you are not current on your immunizations.

Reentering your home or business:

Electrical power and natural gas or propane tanks should be shut off to avoid fire, electrocution, or explosions. Try to return to your home/business during the daytime so that you do not have to use any lights. Use battery-powered flashlights and lanterns, rather than candles, gas lanterns, or torches. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open all windows, and leave the house immediately. Notify the gas company or the police or fire departments or State Fire Marshal's office, and do not turn on the lights or do anything that could cause a spark. Do not return to the house until you are told it is safe to do so.

Your electrical system may also be damaged. If you see frayed wiring or sparks, or if there is an odor of something burning but no visible fire, you should immediately shut off the electrical system at the circuit breaker.

Avoid any downed power lines, particularly those in water. Avoid wading in standing water, which also may contain glass or metal fragments.

You should consult your utility company about using electrical equipment, including power generators. Be aware that it is against the law and a violation of electrical codes to connect generators to your home's electrical circuits without the approved, automatic-interrupt devices. If a generator is on line when electrical service is restored, it can become a major fire hazard. In addition, the improper connection of a generator to your home's electrical circuits may endanger line workers helping to restore power in your area. All electrical equipment and appliances must be completely dry before returning them to service. It is advisable

to have a certified electrician check these items if there is any question. Also, remember not to operate any gas-powered equipment indoors

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:

- 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.
- Assume that everything touched by floodwater has been contaminated and will have to be disinfected or thrown away.
- 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 most 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 warm water and bleach. Use 1 part bleach for every 4 parts of water. (For example: 1 cup of bleach in 4 cups of water.)
- Help the drying process by using fans, air conditioning units or heaters, and dehumidifiers.
- After completing the cleanup, wash your hands with soap and water.
- If you suspect your water has been contaminated boil your water for 1 minute. Or you may use water that has been disinfected for personal hygiene use (solution of teaspoon of household bleach per 1 gallon of water). Let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy, use a solution of $\frac{1}{4}$ 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.
- Wash clothes contaminated with flood or sewage water in hot water and detergent.
- Seek immediate medical attention if you become injured or ill.

- Remember that it is important to remove as much moisture from the building as possible to prevent mold and mildew from growing!

Recommended Equipment

Fans	Rubber Boots
Heaters	Bucket
Dehumidifiers	Scrubbing Brushes or Rags
Bleach	Mop with spare mop heads
Soap	Wet vacuum (for pulling water out of flooring and carpet)
Clean Water	
Gloves	

Useful Contacts

Building Department: (503)842-3408 OR
<http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/comdev/>

Environmental Health Department: (503)842-3902 OR
<http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/Health/Environmental.htm>