

Stay Safe After a FLOOD

Avoid contact with floodwater. It can harm your health. Floodwater may contain:



Toilet waste



Bad germs



Hazardous chemicals, like gas, paint thinner, pesticides



Heavy or sharp objects



Downed power lines that can electrically charge the water



Live or dead animals

Wear rubber gloves and rubber boots if you have to touch floodwater. Protect open cuts and wounds with waterproof bandages that seal on all 4 sides.

Always wash your hands with soap and clean water after contact with floodwater or items touched by floodwater. Use hand sanitizer when clean water is not available.

Talk to a health care provider if floodwater gets on or in your body, by mouth or by skin. It can give you diarrhea, rash, and/or serious infection.

RETURN HOME ONLY WHEN AUTHORITIES SAY IT IS SAFE

If floodwater entered your home:



Do not enter your home until you are sure it is structurally safe to enter and know that the electricity is turned off. Do not enter standing water to access the main power switch. Call your local utility company for guidance or assistance.



Use flashlights, not lighters or other open flames, to check on the condition of buildings. Gas may be present.



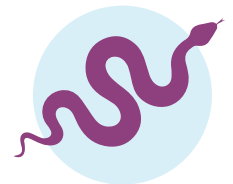
Be aware of the risk of electric shock. Don't touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water.



Before you start any cleanup activities in your home, take pictures/videos and make a list of all damage to your home and your belongings for insurance and to register your flood damage. Contact your local Environmental Health Department for guidance on removal of damaged property.

Floodwaters may drive wild animals, livestock, and lost pets into your home or neighborhood.

- Don't try to trap an animal yourself. Call Animal Control.
- If you are bitten by an animal, get medical help right away.
- If you are bitten by a snake, call 9-1-1. Try to get a photo of the snake to help identify it and get the right treatment of your snakebite. People with snakebites can become dizzy or pass out, so don't try to drive yourself to the hospital.



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

ListosCalifornia.org

**Governor's Office of
Emergency Services**
CalOES.ca.gov

**California Department
of Public Health**
tinyurl.com/floodrecover

Ready.gov
ready.gov/recovering-disaster

KEEP KIDS SAFE

- Do not let children play in floodwaters or play with toys or anything that got wet until they have been disinfected.
- Children should not take part in flood cleanup work.
- Be sure to wash children's hands with soap and water often and always before meals.



KEEP PETS SAFE

- Do not let your pet play in or drink from standing floodwater or puddles.
- Check to make sure pet food bags/containers are dry. Throw away any pet food that may have gotten wet.
- Wash all bedding and toys that may have gotten wet.
- Before letting your pet roam at home, make sure there are no broken fences, windows, or gates that could allow them to escape and become lost.



PROTECT YOUR HEALTH



Water Safety:

- Floods can make your water unsafe to use or drink. Water authorities will tell you if you should not use tap water at all or how to make it safe by boiling or disinfecting. Usually, boiling for at least one minute will kill germs.
- If you suspect or have been told water is unsafe, **do not use it** to wash dishes, brush your teeth, prepare food, wash your hands, make ice, or make baby formula. Use bottled, boiled, or treated water for safe drinking, cooking, and washing.
- If you have a well that flooded, ask your local health, environmental health, or water department to help you test and disinfect it.

IMPORTANT:
Water that has fuel, toxic chemicals, or radioactive materials in it will not be made safe by boiling or disinfection.



Food Safety:

- Flooding in your home can make your food unsafe to eat. Other than undamaged cans and metal pouches, **throw out any fresh or packaged food and drinks that floodwater touched.**
- You can clean, then disinfect undamaged canned food and metal pouches that were touched by floodwater in 1 cup unscented bleach and 5 gallons water for 15 minutes. **Bleach should never be mixed with ammonia or any other cleaner.**
- If you had power loss of 6-8 hours or more, throw away all frozen or refrigerated foods.
- When in doubt, throw it out!



Power Safety:

- Don't start up any heating, cooling, or other electrical appliances that got flooded. They could cause electric shock or fire when turned on.
- Propane camping stoves and lanterns, gas generators or heaters made for outdoor use should **NEVER** be used indoors. They give off colorless, odorless carbon monoxide gas that can kill your family and pets. Use a generator or other gas-powered equipment **ONLY** outdoors and away from windows.