

# R E S P O N D I N G T O B A S E M E N T F L O O D I N G

## H E A V Y R A I N F A L L



- ◇ DO NOT ENTER flooded basements if electrical systems, i.e., outlets, appliances or furnace, are flooded. Do not handle any connected electrical cords or appliances until all power has been shut off. Call the electrical utility service department for assistance before attempting to disconnect cords or open fuse or circuit breaker box in a flooded basement.
- ◇ While your basement is still flooded, avoid flushing toilets or using other water connected appliances or fixtures whose discharge would increase the hazard or make your basement more difficult to clean.
- ◇ After cleaning your basement, make sure that all clothing and parts of the body which were in contact with sewage are thoroughly washed. Prevent the tracking of sewage in living quarters of the house. Do not permit children to enter the basement until after the floors and walls have been washed, disinfected and allowed to dry.

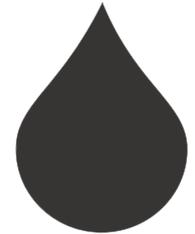
**When flooded, BASEMENTS can contain raw sewage which is HAZARDOUS!**



**NEVER  
MIX CHLORINE BLEACH  
WITH AMMONIA. THIS  
COMBINATION PRODUCES  
A POISONOUS GAS!**

## A P P L I A N C E S

Be sure to check all affected pilot lights or burners on gas fired appliances. Turn off gas supply to the main burner. After about five minutes, light the pilot burner in accordance with equipment instructions. If the pilot will not light, turn off the supply to the pilot and call your appliance service or utility company.



## C O N T A M I N A T I O N

- ◇ Discard any contaminated food and vegetables into tightly covered, vermin-proof receptacles. Food containers such as sacks, cardboard boxes, or open containers of any kind should be considered contaminated. See "Disinfect with Chlorine Bleach" for disinfecting canned goods, etc.
- ◇ Clothing, carpets, upholstered furniture, toys, bedding, and similar items should be discarded unless they are cleaned and disinfected. 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 pickup.
- ◇ After the sewage has receded, flush the floors and walls with water from a hose then wash with detergent and hot water. Keep the hose away from electrical equipment or wiring unless they are completely disconnected. Disinfect the floors and flooded portions using a chlorine solution. Ventilate the basement by circulating fresh or outside air to assist drying and especially during cleaning and disinfecting. The disinfecting solution will aid in deodorizing the basement.

**NOTE**

Disinfect to a minimum distance of 2 feet above the flood line. Elevate all items stored in the basement above the high water level to prevent damage in case of a recurrence of flooding.

## DISINFECT WITH CHLORINE BLEACH

Household laundry bleach diluted about ½ to 1 cup per gallon of water is a very good and inexpensive way to disinfect.

Canned goods in sealed cans may be safely kept, provided the containers are thoroughly washed and scrubbed in hot water and detergent, then immersed for one minute in a warm or tepid chlorine disinfecting solution of ½ cup of household bleach per gallon of water.

Mops, brushes, and cleaning cloths should also be disinfected following their use. The typical household laundry tub can be used.

Adding 1 ½ cups of bleach to 5 gallons of warm water and soaking the soiled articles for 5 minutes will disinfect these items.

If possible, cleaning, disinfecting and drying should be done within 24 hours of flooding to minimize mold and mildew.



Additional information on flooding, pamphlets, bulletins, and fact sheets are also available upon request.

## FLOODED BASEMENTS

**Basements that have been flooded with sewage or other contaminating material are hazardous to health and safety. The steps described here will help keep you safe when basements flood.**



**If you still have questions or would like more information, call**

**THE WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT  
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**Environmental  
Health  
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**Flooded  
Basements**

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