



The flood is over! What do you do now?

You may be surprised by what you find when you get back home after a flood. Water may still be standing in your yard or your house. Many of your belongings may be damaged or destroyed. There will be changes in your house, your yard and your neighborhood. Some of those changes could hurt you, but you can learn how to be safe in your home.

Be careful with food.

After a flood, some food that is left in your home may not be safe to eat, especially food that was stored in your refrigerator or freezer. **Any time you don't know where food came from, throw it out.** Also throw out these foods:

- ☒ Food that may have touched flood water
- ☒ Food that rats, mice or other animals may have gotten into
- ☒ Open, bulging or dented cans
- ☒ Bottles or jars with tops that can come off
- ☒ Food that smells or looks funny

Not all food will be unsafe. Canned food that was not opened and was stored in places not touched by flood water will probably be safe to eat.

ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER BEFORE EATING ANY FOOD OR PUTTING YOUR HANDS TO YOUR FACE. Also, be sure to wash your hands **ANY** time that you touch flood water.

Be careful with tap or well water.

After a flood, tap or well water may not be safe to drink or even to use for cleaning or bathing.

Water may contain germs or poisons. To make sure water is safe:

- ☒ Listen to state and local officials who will give you instructions about how to handle water for cooking, drinking, or cleaning. An adult may need to boil water for a full minute and let it cool before you can use it.
- ☒ Drink bottled water if you can.
- ☒ Refill your own bottles from a place you know has safe water.
- ☒ Use bottled or boiled water for cooking, cleaning, bathing and even brushing your teeth until all health warnings are lifted.
- ☒ Never drink water that looks oily or smells funny.