

Minnesota Department of Health Fact Sheet
DISASTER QUICK TIPS: Basic Clean-up

Take pictures of flood damage

Take pictures of the building and contents before you start cleaning. Pictures help with insurance claims.

Stay safe as you clean

Wear an N-95 respirator, rubber boots, rubber gloves and eye goggles to clean up.

Be careful with asbestos

Dry asbestos fiber can enter your lungs when you breathe. It can cause cancer. Wet asbestos is less likely to be in the air. If your home or building has asbestos in it:

- Call an asbestos company to take it away safely; and
- Call the MPCA (651-296-6300) to find out where to take it safely;

If you think you have asbestos:

- Look for a label that says asbestos; and
- Call an asbestos company for help.

What to throw away

Take out and throw away porous things that soak up water. Wood, wallboard, wallpaper, insulation, carpeting, and mattresses can grow mold that can make you sick. When in doubt, throw it out!

***Wash hands well and often.
Wash with soap and safe water!***

Scrub all hard surfaces

First, scrub hard, “nonporous” surfaces like concrete, countertops and appliances with soap and safe water. Rinse well with safe water. Scrub and rinse with safe water before using a bleach mix. Do not mix bleach with soap or other products. See “Disaster Quick Tips: Using Bleach.”

Dry out your home

Open doors and windows. Use fans and dehumidifiers to dry your home.

Use Fuel-powered tools safely

Always use outdoors – never inside:

- Gasoline engines used to pump water or to make power; or
- Grills that use natural gas or charcoal

Use these tools away from enclosed spaces, garages, near open windows or doors, or air intakes. They make gases that can cause illness or death.

Clean up fuel-oil spills

Wear clothing that will not soak up oil when cleaning. Keep children and pets away from fuel-oil spills. Keep fresh air moving in area. Throw away items that are porous and have soaked up the oil. Keep away anything that can start a fire. An oil spill is a potential fire hazard.

Report the spill to the state Duty Officer at 651-649-5451 or 800-422-0798.



Environmental Health Division
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MDH Environmental Health Flood Information

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/floods

MDH District Offices

Bemidji	218-308-2100
Duluth	218-302-6166
Fergus Falls	218-332-5150
Mankato	507-344-2700
Marshall	507-537-7151
Metro	651-201-4500
Rochester	507-206-2700
St. Cloud	320-223-7300

MDH Environmental Health Contacts

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/contacts.html

Asbestos

Asbestos and Lead Compliance: 651-201-4620

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/asbestos

Carbon Monoxide and Mold

MDH Indoor Air Quality: 651-201-4601 or 800-798-9050

E-mail: health.indoorair@state.mn.us

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air

Cleaning-up and Food Safety

MDH Food, Pools, and Lodging: 651-201-4500

E-mail: health.foodlodging@state.mn.us

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety

Public Drinking Water

MDH Drinking Water Protection: 651-201-4700

E-mail: health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/water

Wells and Well Water

MDH Well Management: 651-201-4600 or 800-383-9808

E-mail: health.wells@state.mn.us

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells

If you require this document in another format such as large print, Braille, or cassette tape, contact 651-201-5000 or 800-657-3908. For deaf or hard of hearing TTY: 651-201-5797