

## Garbage



- \* Store in watertight, rodent/insect-proof containers with tight-fitting covers.
- \* Use plastic liners.
- \* Pile in a convenient location — not near your well.

## Hygiene



- \* Wash hands with soap and water that has been boiled or disinfected and cooled.
- \* Do *not* flush toilets attached to a septic tank that is covered with floodwaters.

## Mold



Mold growth can become a problem if wet materials are not thoroughly dried or discarded quickly. Mold can be a trigger for people with allergies or asthma.

For information, visit [www.health.ny.gov/environmental/indoors/air/docs/](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/indoors/air/docs/)

### More Information

**Flooding:** [www.health.ny.gov/environmental/emergency/flood/docs/flooding\\_info.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/emergency/flood/docs/flooding_info.pdf)

**Information on What to Do After a Flood:** [www.health.ny.gov/environmental/emergency/flood/flood\\_advice.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/emergency/flood/flood_advice.htm)

**When there's a flood what you need to know to protect your Health and Safety:** [www.health.ny.gov/environmental/emergency/flood/docs/when\\_theres\\_a\\_flood.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/emergency/flood/docs/when_theres_a_flood.pdf)

**Flood Waters pose Health Risks:** [www.health.ny.gov/environmental/emergency/flood/docs/flood\\_risks.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/emergency/flood/docs/flood_risks.pdf)

**Residential Oil Spills and Flooding - What Homeowners need to know** - [www.health.ny.gov/environmental/indoors/air/docs/oil\\_spill\\_flood.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/indoors/air/docs/oil_spill_flood.pdf)

**Flood Recovery – Restoring Water Wells** - [www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/flooding/docs/private\\_wells.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/flooding/docs/private_wells.pdf)

**Flood Recovery – Sampling Private Wells** - [www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/flooding/private\\_well\\_sampling.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/flooding/private_well_sampling.htm)

**Health Checklist for Repairing Your Flooded Home** - [www.health.ny.gov/environmental/indoors/air/docs/flood\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/indoors/air/docs/flood_checklist.pdf)

**Flooding Fatal Injury Facts** - [www.health.ny.gov/environmental/investigations/face/facts/flooding.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/investigations/face/facts/flooding.htm)

**Repairing Your Flooded Home** –[www.redcross.org/www.files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/file\\_cont333\\_lang0\\_150.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/www.files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/file_cont333_lang0_150.pdf)



# FLOODING

## QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

- ✓ DRINKING WATER
- ✓ FOOD
- ✓ HOUSEHOLD CLEANUP

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## WHAT TO DO BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A FLOOD.

Livingston County  
Office of Emergency Management  
3360 Gypsy Lane, Mt. Morris, NY 14510  
Phone: 585-243-7160  
Fax: 585-243-7162

## The Dangers of Flooding

- Moving flood waters
- Pooling flood waters
- Contaminated water and food supply

This brochure highlights important health and safety concerns to address before, during, and after major flooding. It is not intended to cover every type of flooding situation. More detailed guidance is available from the resources listed on the back and in **Don't be Left in the Dark** at [www.health.ny.gov/publications/7064.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/7064.pdf)

### Before

- Move important papers, electronics, and easily moveable appliances to upper floors. Place tools and cleaning supplies in a safe location.
- If the basement floods before you have a chance to shut off the electricity, do not enter the basement. Contact the power company as soon as possible.

#### ***If you have to leave:***

- Turn off all electrical appliances.
- Turn off electricity at the main fuse or circuit breaker, unless there is a sump pump.
- Turn off water at the main valve.
- Turn off propane gas by shutting off the service valve on top of propane tank.
- Leave natural gas on unless local officials advise otherwise, but shut off all gas burning appliances (e.g., stove, water heater).
- Drain the plumbing if it is likely the temperature in your house will go below freezing. **Include**
  - \* Turning on highest and lowest hot and cold water taps,
  - \* Flushing toilets and removing water from lower bowl,
  - \* Leaving all taps open until you return.

### During

- Listen for evacuation orders.
- Do not drive around barricades.
- Turn around if you come to a flooded road, whether driving or walking.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising water, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

### After

#### Drinking Water

- Assume all water sources are unsafe until approved by your local health department.
- Use bottled water certified for sale in New York, or water from a state certified tanker.
- If your well has been covered over with floodwaters, it should be disinfected.
- Follow local officials' water usage restrictions to conserve water.
- If you must use water of unknown quality, it should be disinfected. (See disinfection directions on p. 15 of **Don't Be Left in the Dark** [www.health.ny.gov/publications/7064.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/7064.pdf)).

#### Food

- Discard food without a waterproof container if there is any chance that it has come into contact with floodwaters.
- Commercially canned food:
  - \* Remove labels thoroughly.
  - \* Wash cans.
  - \* Disinfect with solution of 1/4 cup of unscented household bleach per one gallon of water and air dry.
  - \* Re-label cans, including expiration date.
  - \* Discard food containers with screw-caps, snap lids, and home canned foods if they have come in contact with floodwaters.

## Call

Your local Health

Department

**585-243-7270**

or

The New York State

Department of Health

**800-458-1158**