

# CLEANING UP YOUR HOME

# AFTER A FLOOD



## CHECKLIST:

- Clear trash, mud and debris.
- Flush the area with clean water from a hose under pressure, if possible. Do not use river water.
- Scrub floors, walls and other surfaces with soap and hot water, then dry.
- After scrubbing, ventilate area and use solution of 1 ounce bleach mixed with 4 gallons of water. Use goggles, gloves, and mask.
- Open all doors and windows and allow the building to dry. If possible, allow at least 10 hours before reoccupying.
- Check flues, chimneys, wiring and plumbing.
- Check for weakened foundations, warped doors and windows. Leave your home if you hear or feel shifting as this could mean the structure is not stable.
- If sewage has overflowed, follow clean-up guidance from public health.
- Never use generators or other gas, propane, or charcoal-burning devices in your home or near an open window or door. This can cause potentially fatal carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Get rid of foods, medicines, or cosmetics that were in flooded areas unless they are in sealed, waterproof packaging.
- If refrigeration was off for more than four hours, discard perishable items.
- Use soap and water to thoroughly scrub flooded belongings made of wood, metal, glass, or other hard substances, then allow to dry.
- Launder or dry clean clothing, bedding and other soft materials. Allow to dry.
- If possible, replace mattresses or stuffed furniture like couches that were submerged in flood waters. They typically cannot be adequately cleaned.
- Wash hands with soap and water immediately after cleaning or handling objects recovered from flood areas.

**MORE INFORMATION:** [www.snohd.org/weather](http://www.snohd.org/weather)