



City of Warrenton

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After a Flood or Sewage Back Up – Cleaning up the Mess

If you have a sewer backup in your house, you **MUST** clean properly to avoid you and your family from becoming sick or injured. Do not bring children into the flooded area during clean up! There are companies that can clean if you feel you cannot take this on yourself. Here is some information on what you may want to do.

The following are suggestions on how to clean up a flood or sewage problem.

Cleaning & Sanitizing:

1. Drain all flood waters and/or sewage by natural draining or plumbing.
2. Remove dirt, soil, and debris from surfaces that came in contact with flood waters
3. Wash down all walls, floors, and surfaces that the flood water or sewage touched with clean, warm or hot water, and a low suds detergent.
4. Rinse again with warm or hot water.
5. Sanitize by rinsing walls, floors, and surfaces using one of the following mixtures: 2 ½ tablespoons of Lysol/Pine Sol per gallon of water used. Or, 8 tablespoons of laundry bleach in each gallon of water used.
6. Air the area by opening windows or using fans.
7. Prevent tracking flood debris and sewage into clean areas.

Utilities:

The following guidelines should be followed when entering a flooded area with gas and/or electricity present:

1. Have the utility companies shut off the gas and electricity
2. **DO NOT** touch the fuse box or any plugged in cords or appliances until the electricity is shut off. Touching these cords could result in electrocution.
3. If an electrical appliance motor or its controls are submerged under water, **DO NOT** start it until consulting with the dealer or service company.

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4. Do not relight appliances until checked by the gas company. Make sure all pilot lights are on before relighting burners.
5. **DO NOT** light matches until the gas is turned off. If there is a gas leak, it could cause an explosion.

Clothing or Bedding:

Clothing, carpets, furniture, toys and/or bedding should be discarded unless they are cleaned and disinfected. It is a good idea to keep a list and photograph items you are discarding. Movable objects could be put outdoors to be cleaned and dried in the sunlight. Discarded clothing should be placed in a tightly closed container until pickup or disposal.

After clean up, make sure that all clothing and part of the body that came in contact with the flood waters and sewage are thoroughly washed. Be sure to wash hands immediately afterwards. Persons engaged in cleaning operations should be particularly mindful of their personal hygiene. Contaminated fingers should be kept away from eyes, nose, and mouth. Persons are advised against smoking at this time because soiled fingers carry disease germs to the cigarette and then to the mouth. After clean up, hands should be thoroughly cleaned using a nail brush and a lot of soap.