

CLEANUP AFTER A SEWAGE BACKUP

OBJECTIVE: To remove all sources of contamination from all surfaces and equipment that came into contact with raw sewage.

- I. Do not allow children or pets into the flooded area during cleanup.
- II. The following are suggestions on how to clean up a sewage problem.
 - A. Cleaning and Sanitizing
 1. Drain all sewage by natural draining or pumping.
 2. Remove debris from all surfaces that came into contact with the raw sewage.
 3. Wash down all contaminated walls, floors, and surfaces with clean, hot water and a low suds detergent.
 4. Rinse again with hot water.
 5. Sanitize by rinsing walls, floors, and surfaces using 8 tablespoons of laundry bleach for every gallon of water used. Ensure a minimum of 10 seconds of contact time with all affected surfaces.
 6. Air out the areas by opening windows or using fans.
 7. Prevent tracking flood debris and sewage into clean areas.
 - B. Utilities
 1. Do not touch the fuse box or any plugged in cords or appliances until the electricity is shut off.
 2. If an electrical appliance or its controls are submerged under water, do not start it until consulting with the dealer or service company.
 3. Do not relight gas appliances until checked by the gas company.
 - C. Food and Clothing
 1. Discard all contaminated bottled and boxed foods.

2. Canned goods may be kept if cleaned thoroughly or submerged in chlorinated water for 15 minutes.
3. Clothing, Furniture, Carpets, etc. should be discarded unless they are cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturer's recommendations.

D. Personal Hygiene

1. Proper hand washing consisting of:
 - a. Detergent/antibacterial soap
 - b. Short bristled scrub brush to clean nails, cuticles, and finger joints.
 - c. Adequate and thorough washing
2. Proper hand washing prevents:
 - a. Self-contamination
 - b. Reduces the spread of infection to others
3. Never eat, drink, smoke or use smokeless tobacco prior to hand washing.
4. Avoid touching the face, mouth, eyes, ears, or nose before hand washing.

E. Sanitizing of Equipment

1. All equipment that came in contact with wastewater should be washed on the exterior with warm water and detergent.
2. Sanitize exterior surfaces using eight tablespoons of laundry bleach for every gallon of water used. A minimum contact time of ten seconds is required.
3. Interior of Pumps:
 - a. Rinse with clean water, several times.
 - b. Pump a solution of eight tablespoons of laundry bleach for every gallon of water used through the pump for a minimum of ten seconds. Follow manufacturer's recommendations if noted.