



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Environmental Health Division

FLOOD RECOVERY GUIDE: SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Floodwaters can inundate septic systems resulting in improper function and potential discharge of untreated effluent to ground surface. Take the following steps before, during, and after a storm:

- Conserve household water during and after flood events to prevent sewage backup into the home.
Septic systems with pumps have limited storage capacity during a power outage and additional water conservation steps should be taken.
- Cease using any septic system if sewage backs up into a home and disinfect all affected surfaces. It may take several days after flooding for septic system function to return to normal.
- Prevent vehicle traffic over septic systems during debris cleanup and removal. Vehicles can damage septic tanks and drain fields.
- Contact a licensed septic system installer and the [Health Department](#) if you suspect your septic system has been damaged and requires [repair](#).



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