

FLOOD PRECAUTIONS

Huron County



Public Health

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

FLOOD PRECAUTION FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS:

If there is evidence of water entering the home or flood waters are quickly approaching:

- Ensure fuel tanks such as propane, gas, or diesel be secured.
- Chemicals used in the treatment process (e.g., chlorine, sulfur dioxide) in containers or cylinders should be secured or moved to a safe location.
- Pumps, motors, aerators, and other mechanical equipment should have the power shut off if flooding is imminent.
- If possible, electrical controls should be removed or sealed to prevent damage and expedite system startup after flood waters recede. Only qualified individuals should work with electricity or electrical components.
- Plans for alternate access routes to wastewater treatment facilities during high water should be in place.
- Any standby power sources, such as generators, should be protected and have an adequate, protected fuel supply to operate.

FLOOD RECOVERY OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS:

Once floodwaters have receded, there are several things homeowners should remember:

- Do not use the sewage system while area is flooded.
- Have your septic tank professionally inspected and serviced if you suspect damage.
- Only trained specialists should clean or repair septic tanks because tanks may contain dangerous gases. Contact your health department for a list of septic system contractors who work in your area.
- If sewage has backed up into the basement, clean the area and disinfect the floor. Use a chlorine solution of a half cup of chlorine bleach to each gallon of water to disinfect the area thoroughly.
- Pump the septic system as soon as possible after the flood. Be sure to pump both the tank and lift station. Do not pump the tank during flooded or saturated drainfield conditions, because it can cause more damage.
- Do not compact the soil over the soil absorption field by driving or operating equipment in the area.
- Be sure the septic tank's manhole cover is secure and that inspection ports have not been blocked or damaged.

For list of septic system contractors who work in your area, visit:

<http://www.huroncohealth.com/environmental-programs/household-sewage.html>

For more information, contact the Huron County General Health District, Environmental Division at: 419-668-1652 ext. 239.