

Safety First!

Watch out for electrical problems, broken gas lines, and other major hazards. If you see these hazards, do not enter the building!

Disinfecting with Bleach

Household chlorine bleach is a safe, cheap, and effective disinfectant. Use only plain, concentrated bleach without any additives — gels used in “splashless” bleach and scents may not be safe or effective in all parts of your home.

Most bleach is sold in “concentrated” formulas of 8.25% Sodium Hypochlorite (NaClO). Always read the label and follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

DPBH-EHS recommends the following concentrations for disinfecting:

Drinking Water: 8 drops per gallon of water. Let stand for 30 minutes. Should still smell

Hard surfaces: Wipe down with a 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water.

Remember: **More isn’t better.** Using too much bleach can make you sick and damage your belongings. **Always read the label.**



State of Nevada

Cleaning Up After the Flood



State of Nevada — Division of
Public & Behavioral Health

Environmental Health Section
727 Fairview Dr. STE D
Carson City, NV 89701

Phone: 775-687-7533
Fax: 775-687-7551
Email: EHSCustomerService@health.nv.gov



Flood Water & Mold

Treat all flood water as sewage. Keep children and pets away from the water. Thoroughly dry and clean everything touched by flood water. Hard surfaces can be disinfected with household bleach. Clothes, soft toys, and other items may be washed in hot water with non-chlorine bleach.

Carpet, furniture, and other large, soft items are difficult to disinfect, and may need to be discarded to prevent mold growth or illness.

Try to dry your home as quickly as possible to prevent mold from growing. Disinfect mold with bleach, and dry the area quickly.

Septic Systems

Your septic system will not work properly during a flood. Avoid using the system until flood waters recede.

When the ground dries, have your system inspected and pumped by a licensed professional. Contact DPBH-EHS for licensed septic tank pumping contractors.

Flooding can cause permanent damage to your septic tank or leach field. Contact Joel Brown at the Lyon County Building Department at 775-463-6591 for information on permitting and repairs.

Water Well

If flood water gets into your well head, it will contaminate your well and pipes. Before using your well, inspect the well head carefully. **Boil all water or do not use your well** if water reached the well head or you see any damage to the well head.

Only a professional well driller can repair a damaged well. For more information on well treatment, contact DPBH-EHS. For a list of licensed well-drillers, see <http://water.nv.gov/drillersearch.aspx>.

You should have your well tested as soon as possible. Contact the Nevada State Public Health Lab at 775-688-1335 or see a list of certified water testing laboratories at <https://ndep.nv.gov/water/lab-certification/drinking-water-testing>.

Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes breed in still water, and there may be more of them after a flood. Empty all containers of standing water: flowerpots, tires, bird baths, wading pools or any other pools of water.

Protect yourself and your family by wearing long shirts, pants, and using an insect repellent containing DEET while outdoors. Try to stay indoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are active. Protect infants younger than 2 months with mosquito netting.

Food

Throw away all food that may have gotten wet, or has been contaminated by pests.

Intact canned goods may be wiped down with a bleach solution. Inspect cans carefully for dents, bulging, holes, or rust before opening.

If you lose power for 2 or more hours, inspect food in the fridge carefully. If you have a thermometer, make sure food is still less than 41° F. Food in the freezer is safe if it is still frozen.

Don't gamble with your health: **When in doubt, throw it out!**

Rodents and Other Animals

You may see more pests than usual after the flood. Take care cleaning up to prevent bites or illness.

- Rodents may carry hantavirus. Always wet droppings or nests with a bleach solution before sweeping. Put droppings or nests directly into a plastic trash bag and seal.
- Avoid handling wild animals. If you must, use sturdy gloves and/or tools.
- Dispose of dead animals properly in the garbage or as instructed by your solid waste authority.
- Find and seal all entry points to your home.
- Keep food in sealed containers.