

## HOMEOWNERS QUICK REFERENCE FOR FLOOD CLEAN-UP

For flood clean up instruction, refer to the document entitled “Cleaning up after the flood; A Guide for Homeowners” available on the Internet at <http://www.thisspot.com>.

Be safe and follow all safety precautions contained in the detailed document. In particular, follow safe practices with respect to electricity, natural gas, and the building structure. In addition, assume that the water in your home is not safe to drink. Information regarding communal water supplies can be obtained from the owners (typically the municipality). Private water supplies should be serviced and treated as well as tested to ensure the safety of the water. For a well, this could include shock chlorination of the well and distribution piping and repeated testing for several months. Remember, water that appears clear is not necessarily safe to drink. More detailed information on the remediation of private water supplies can be found in the “Cleaning up after the flood” document.

After ensuring that it is safe to enter your home, complete the following actions:

1. Rescue the most valuable items first.
2. Protect your home from further damage.
  - a. Get fresh air moving through the home by leaving the door and windows open (weather permitting).
  - b. Patch holes in the roof, walls or windows to prevent the further entry of rainwater.
  - c. Repair sagging floors or roof sections.
  - d. Remove debris.
  - e. Check for broken or leaking water pipes by shutting off all taps and then checking the water meter to see if water is flowing through it.
3. Carefully drain the basement, if required. It is important to do this slowly, as water in the surrounding ground could cause the basement walls to collapse. Detailed instructions are contained in the “Cleaning up after the Flood” booklet.

Flood waters, whether or not there has been a sewage back up, should be considered contaminated water and treated as such. However, if your home has been flooded by sewage, it is important that the following precautions are undertaken:

1. Do not move back into the house to live in till after the cleanup.
2. Children, pregnant women and others with health issues should not enter the clean up area.
3. While you may enter the house for clean up; ensure there is good ventilation by opening windows, using fans etc. Wear proper protective equipment during cleanup. Use all precautions given in the document on cleaning up after floods regarding electricity, energy etc.
4. All soft furnishings (carpets, mattresses etc) have to be discarded. **They cannot be cleaned / sanitized if damaged with sewage.**
5. Do not start preparing food in your kitchen till your basement and other areas contaminated with sewage have been cleaned and sanitized.

Remember to contact your insurance representative prior to discarding any items.

For further information please contact your local Public Health Inspector.

Sun Country Health Region WEYBURN PH: 842-8618	Five Hills Health Region MOOSE JAW PH: 691-1500
Cypress Health Region SWIFT CURRENT PH: 778-5280	Sunrise Health Region YORKTON PH: 786-0600
Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region  Community Health Division REGINA PH: 766-7755	Saskatoon Health Region Safe Communities, Public Health Services SASKATOON PH: 655-4605
Heartland Health Region ROSETOWN PH: 882-6413	Kelsey Trail Health Region MELFORT PH: 752-6310
Prince Albert Parkland Health Region Public Health PRINCE ALBERT PH: 765-6600	Mamawetan/Churchill River LA RONGE PH: 425-8512
Prairie North Health Region NORTH BATTLEFORD PH: 446-6400	