

Reopening Your Personal Services Facility after Flooding

Inspection

After a flood, it is the responsibility of the manager or operator to do a full self-inspection of the personal services facility to make sure that normal operations can safely resume without affecting client safety.

Essential services: Water, power, and gas

- Make sure that electricity and gas services have been restored safely and inspected by a qualified professional.
- Do not try to use any large electrical equipment, such as tanning beds and autoclaves, until a qualified professional has said the equipment is safe to use. You may need to contact the manufacturer for more instructions.
- Do not use water for handwashing or cleaning instruments until a qualified professional has said that it is safe (potable).
- If you have a well that has flooded, make sure it is super-chlorinated (shocked) and tested after flood waters are gone to confirm it is safe. Learn more about [testing your water after your well has flooded](#).

Physical structures, walls, and surfaces

Before starting any remediation or construction work on walls, be sure you know which walls are load-bearing. Talk to a contractor for information on structural safety.

- After a flood, mould contamination is a concern. Contact a remediation company if you have extensive mould damage or asbestos concerns. Learn more about [managing indoor mould](#).
- Remove and throw away all absorbent materials (like carpet, drywall, upholstered chairs and benches, pillows, padding, and cushions) that have been damaged by water.
- Thoroughly wash all interior surfaces (like floors and walls) using a mix of hot water and detergent. After washing, rinse the surfaces to get rid of detergent and then disinfect using a mild bleach solution (1 tablespoon of bleach to 4 litres of water).
- Structural parts of the building (like pipes, ceiling, and HVAC or ventilation systems) that have been affected by flood waters should be removed, repaired, or cleaned and disinfected, as needed.

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Equipment and instruments

After a flood, all equipment and instruments in the facility must be inspected and assessed by the manager or operator. All equipment and instruments that have been affected by the flood must either be thrown away or cleaned, disinfected, and sterilized. Many materials cannot be fully cleaned after they have been soaked with flood water.

- Remove and throw away, in sealed plastic bags, the following items:
 - Single-use items
 - Items that absorb moisture
 - Containers, lotions, cosmetics, and materials that may have been underwater (submerged) or affected by moisture
 - Materials, supplies, and equipment in plastic, paper, cardboard, cloth, and similar containers that have been damaged by water or have absorbed moisture
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect all sinks before using them.
- Wash all cloth supplies and equipment, including sheets and towels, in hot water with detergent. Dry in a hot dryer.
- Make sure that electrical equipment is completely dry before testing it. You may need to contact the manufacturer for more instructions.
- Items that need to be cleaned, disinfected, and sterilized must be taken apart when they are being cleaned.

Damaged food supplies

If you give your clients food or drinks, throw away all food, drinks, and packaging that may have been submerged in flood waters, damaged by water, or affected by moisture.

If your refrigerator lost power, throw away all refrigerated, perishable foods that were in the refrigerator for an unknown amount of time while it didn't have power. Most refrigerators can keep food at 4°C for about 4 hours without power. If in doubt, throw it out.

