

Waukesha County Flood Safety Guide

Waukesha County Contacts:

Incident Hotline:

2-1-1 or

Toll free (877) 947-2211 or

Local (262) 547-3388

Public Health:

(262) 896-8430

Environmental Health:

(262) 896-8300

Other Area Contacts:

Red Cross Volunteer

Opportunities:

(262) 970-7426

We Energies:

Electric: 1-800-662-4797

Gas: 1-800-261-5325

Dear County Residents,

This Flood Safety Guide was developed to provide you with helpful tips to protect you and your family from flood waters. As you are reading this, Waukesha County is working hard with its municipal partners to assess flood damage and offer support where needed.

Please obey any posted road closings to ensure public safety.



Water

During flood conditions, Waukesha County recommends citizens do not swim or bathe in rivers, streams, creeks or lakes in flooded areas.

For residents with private wells:

- Do not drink water if it is cloudy, odorous or colored.
- Only drink bottled water or water from a known, safe source.
- Water can be boiled for five minutes to make it safe to drink.
- Do not use water from private wells that have been or are flooded
- Testing private well water for bacteria is recommended if you are uncertain about its safety. Private well test kits can be obtained through Waukesha County's Environmental Health Division. Sample testing will cost \$25 for drop-offs and \$28 for mail-ins.
- **For residents with a municipal water supply,** please contact your city or village regarding water safety concerns.

Hygiene & Sanitation

- Always wash your hands with soap and water that has been boiled or disinfected before preparing or eating food and after using a toilet, participating in flood clean-up activities, and handling articles contaminated with flood water or sewage.
- Keep open cuts or sores that have been exposed to flood water clean by washing the affected area with soap to control the infection. If a wound develops redness, swelling, or drainage, seek immediate medical attention.
- Protect children from waterborne illness by not allowing them to play in flood water areas; washing their hands frequently and always before meals; disinfecting flood-water contaminated toys using a solution of six ounces of bleach to one gallon of water.



Web Resources:

Waukesha County
Emergency Management:
www.waukeshacounty.gov

Flood Hazards and
Recovery:
<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/flood/index.htm>

Clean-Up & Hazards:
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/index.asp>

Home Clean-Up Book:
<http://www.epa.gov/mold/flood/>

County Executive's Office
515 W. Moreland Blvd.
Room 320
Waukesha, WI 53188

(262) 548-7902

countyexec@waukeshacounty.gov

Food

- Do not eat suspicious food or food items that have come into contact with flood water.
- Discard food that is not in waterproof containers.
- Undamaged, commercially canned foods can be saved if you remove the can labels, wash the cans, and then disinfect them with six ounces of bleach to one gallon of water.
- Food containers with screw-caps, snap-lids, crimped caps (sods bottles), twist caps, flip tops, and home canned foods should be discarded if they have come into contact with flood water because they cannot be disinfected.
- For infants, use only pre-prepared canned baby formula that requires no added water rather than powdered formulas prepared with treated water.
- Check all stored items in your refrigerator and freezer if it has been without power for a period of time. Perishable food left at room temperature for more than two hours should be discarded. Frozen foods that have thawed should be discarded if not consumed immediately or kept refrigerated.

Injury Prevention

- Avoid wading in water without proper foot protection.
- Wear proper eyewear, gloves, and other protective equipment when cleaning flood damaged property.
- Contact your physician or Waukesha County's Public Health Division if you are cut or punctured and need a tetanus vaccination.
- Do not attempt to restore or work on power sources without first contacting your utility.
- Homes that are flooded should have their power disconnected by the utility.
- Emergency generators should only be used in well-ventilated areas to avoid carbon monoxide build up.

Sewer & Waste Water

- Private septic systems that have been flooded are no longer reliable. Portable toilets or other appropriate facilities should be used.
- If water and sewage disposal systems are not working, use portable toilet facilities at emergency sites.
- Sewage may backflow from your septic or municipal system through floor drains, toilets, etc. Any affected areas, such as basements, must be cleaned and disinfected with a bleach solution consisting of six ounces of bleach to one gallon of water.



Mold

- Clean and dry household furnishings, carpet, and other items as soon as possible to avoid mold growth.
- Discard anything that cannot be completely dried.
- Remove and replace wet drywall and insulation.
- Inspect and clean all appliances that have been in contact with flood water.
- Have heating and ventilation professionals check systems for mold contamination.