

SAFE FOOD AND WATER

- If the power is out, keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- Put a block of ice in your refrigerator if you expect the power will be out for more than 4 hours.
- Throw away perishable foods (including meat, fish, eggs and leftovers) in your refrigerator when the power has been off for 4 hours or more.
- Thawed food that contains ice crystals can be refrozen or cooked.
- Throw away canned foods that are bulging, opened, or damaged.

HYGIENE

- If there is a boil-water advisory in effect, use water that has been boiled for 1 minute.
- Clean any open cuts or sores with soap and clean water. Then apply antibiotic ointment to prevent an infection.
- Wash all clothes worn during the cleanup in hot water and detergent. These clothes should be washed separately from regular clothes and linens.
- Seek immediate medical attention if you become injured or ill.

RESOURCES FOR COMING HOME

- **Entergy** Call (800) 9OUTAGE or visit entergy-neworleans.com
- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration** Visit osha.gov
- **Sewage and Water Board** Call (504) 52-WATER or visit swbno.org
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency** Visit FEMA.gov
- **Red Cross** Call (800) 229-8191 or visit redcross.org
- **Center for Disease Control and Prevention** Visit CDC.gov
- **Louisiana Department of Health** Call (225) 342-9500 or visit dhh.louisiana.gov

Call 311 to report:

- downed trees and branches,
- clogged storm drains and catch basins,
- flooded streets,
- garbage, tires, and other debris.

Visit ready.nola.gov for more information.

CLEANING UP AFTER A DISASTER



City of New Orleans

COMING HOME

Stay away until safe:

- Stay away from damaged buildings until they have been examined and said to be safe.
- Return to buildings during daylight hours, when it is easier to avoid hazards.
- Leave immediately if you hear shifting or unusual noises that signal that the structure may fall.
- Keep children and pets out of the damaged building until cleanup has been completed.
- Be cautious of household chemicals that may have spilled.
- Stay away from downed powerlines; if you see any call 911.

SAFETY TIPS

- Never use an electric tool or appliance while standing in water.
- Wear hard hats, goggles, heavy work gloves, and watertight boots with steel toe and insole for cleanup work.
- Wear earplugs or protective earmuffs to protect hearing from equipment noise.
- In hot weather, take breaks in shaded areas or in cool rooms, drink water often, and wear light and loose-fitting clothing. Do outdoor activities during cooler hours.

CLEANING UP MOLD

After a storm or flood, mold can become a serious problem. Act fast to prevent mold growth:

- Air out your house by opening doors and windows to remove indoor moisture.
- Clean wet or moldy surfaces with bleach. See the guide on the following page for how to safely clean with bleach.
- Use fans to dry wet building materials, carpets, and furniture within 48 hours.
- Throw away anything that you can't clean or dry quickly.
- If mold growth is large, contact a licensed mold removal professional.

CARBON MONOXIDE AND NATURAL GAS

- Carbon monoxide (an odorless, colorless gas) can cause sudden illness and death. It can build up indoors and poison the people and animals inside.
- Never use generators, pressure washers, gasoline, propane, natural gas, or charcoal burning devices indoors.

Leave if you smell gas:


- If you smell gas or suspect a leak, leave immediately and notify your gas provider.
- Do not turn on the lights, light matches, smoke, or do anything that could cause a spark.
- Do not return to the house until you are told it is safe to do so.

CLEANING WITH BLEACH

First, wash surfaces with soap and warm, clean water to remove dirt and debris. Next, sanitize surfaces with household bleach.

Below is a guide on how much bleach to use. Mix bleach and water in the amounts listed below depending on the items you are cleaning.

- Never mix bleach with ammonia or any other cleaner.
- Wear rubber or other non-porous boots, gloves, and eye protection.
- Try not to breathe in product fumes. If using products indoors, open windows and doors to allow fresh air to enter.

	Items to Clean	Amount of Bleach	Amount of Water
	Food surfaces without mold	1 teaspoon	1 gallon
	Other items without mold	1 cup	5 gallons
	Items with mold	1 cup	1 gallon