



# AFTER THE STORM

## FLOOD WATER SAFETY

Emergency Information: 1-800-342-3557 • [floridadisaster.org](http://floridadisaster.org)



### Don't Drive In Flooded Areas:

**Drowning is a leading cause of storm related death.**

**Turn around, don't drown!**

Floodwater can pose a drowning risk for everyone— regardless of how well they swim. Swiftly moving shallow water can be deadly, and even shallow standing water can be dangerous for small children.

- Always follow warnings about flooded roads.
- Don't drive in flooded areas—cars or other vehicles won't protect you from floodwaters. They can be swept away or may stall in moving water.

### Flood Waters Can be Contaminated with Bacteria and Viruses

**Avoid skin contact with flood waters especially if you have open cuts and wounds.**

- Do not wade through standing water. If you do, wash your body and put on clean clothes.
- If an open cut or wound comes into contact with flood waters, wash the area well with soap and clean water to prevent infection. If the area develops redness, swelling or drainage, seek immediate medical attention.
- If you are cut or have puncture wound, and have not had a tetanus vaccination within the past 5 years, you need a tetanus booster.

**Avoid eating, drinking or touching anything that has been contaminated with flood waters.**

Wash your hands with soap and clean water for 20 seconds :

- Before preparing or eating food.
- After using the toilet and changing a diaper.
- After touching anything contaminated with flood water or sewage.

**If you are unsure if your tap water is safe, boil or disinfect it.**

- Boiling tap water is the best way to kill harmful parasites, bacteria and viruses. The process is complete when the water is held at a rolling boil for at least **one minute**. Let the water cool before using.
- If boiling is not an option, disinfect tap water by adding eight drops of regular unscented household bleach (4 to 6 % strength)—this is about one-eighth teaspoon or a dime-sized puddle, per gallon of water. If a higher strength bleach is used (8.25 % strength), only add seven drops of bleach. Mix the solution and let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat the steps once.