CDC SAFER · HEALTHIER · PEOPLE™

ATSDR AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

The flood is over! What do you do now?

You may be surprised by what you find when you get back home after a flood. Water may still be standing in your yard or your house. Many of your belongings may be damaged or destroyed. There will be changes in your house, your yard and your neighborhood. Some of those changes may hurt you, but you can learn how to be safe in your home.

Be careful in your home.

Here are some tips that will help you be safe in your home after a flood:

- ☑ **Throw away any of your things that have been in the flood water.** Flood water contains germs and chemicals that can make you sick.
- ☑ **ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER AFTER YOU HAVE TOUCHED FLOOD WATER OR ANYTHING THAT HAS BEEN IN FLOOD WATER.** Tell an adult if you have cuts or scrapes, because flood water can cause open sores to become infected.
- ☑ Sometimes gas service and electricity are not working after a flood. Some people have a generator to make electricity when the power is out. **If the adults in your home are using a generator, help them remember to keep it outside 25 feet away from the house and away from doors or windows.**
- ☑ **If your house has a gas grill, stove, water heater or furnace, a storm or flood may break gas lines and cause the gas to escape into your home.** Even if appliances are not working, they can leak a dangerous gas called methane that catches fire very easily. You may smell a bad odor or hear a hissing noise. If you do, tell a grown-up right away. Help the adults in your home to remember not to strike a match, use a lighter or try to turn on the stove if you smell or hear leaking gas.
- ☑ **Gas grills, generators, stoves or water heaters may not work right after a flood, but can still leak a dangerous gas called carbon monoxide that you cannot see or smell but that can make you feel sick.**
- ☑ **Always tell an adult if you have any of these signs of getting sick from carbon monoxide:**
  - **feeling dizzy, weak or sick**
  - **throwing up**
  - **having pain in your chest**
  - **feeling confused**
  - **having a headache**

If you feel funny at night and cannot wake your parents, go outside into the fresh air and call 9-1-1 right away.