



## MFRD After Flooding Occurs - CDC Tips

- Avoid driving through flooded areas and standing water. As little as six inches of water can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- If you evacuated, return to your home only after local authorities have said it is safe to do so.
- When in doubt, throw it out! Throw away any food and bottled water that comes/may have come into contact with floodwater.
- Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. Turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock if it is safe to do so.
- Avoid wading in floodwater, which can be contaminated and contain dangerous debris. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.
- Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Use generators at least 20 feet from any doors, windows, or vents. If you use a pressure washer, be sure to keep the engine outdoors and 20 feet from windows, doors, or vents as well.
- The initial damage caused by a flood is not the only risk. Standing floodwater can also cause concern for health risks.
- After you return home, if you find that your home was flooded, practice safe cleaning. Remove and throw out drywall and insulation that was contaminated with floodwater or sewage.
- Throw out items that cannot be washed and cleaned with a bleach solution: mattresses, pillows, carpeting, carpet padding, and stuffed toys.
- Homeowners may want to temporarily store items outside of the home until insurance claims can be filed. See recommendations by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)[external icon](#).
- Clean walls, hard-surfaced floors, and other household surfaces with soap and water and disinfect.