

NEWS RELEASE



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HEALTH DEPT. OFFERS CLEANUP TIPS FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

The Allegheny County Health Department is offering cleanup tips for homes and businesses contaminated by floodwaters from yesterday's storms.

- Clean and disinfect washable surfaces that have come in contact with floodwaters. Wash with soap and water; then disinfect with a mixture of household bleach and water – one and a quarter-cup of bleach per gallon of water if floodwaters come from sewers and a quarter-cup of bleach to a gallon of water if floodwaters aren't tainted by sewage.
- Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleaner. Wear rubber boots, rubber gloves and eye protection when disinfecting surfaces and try not to breathe bleach fumes.
- Discard upholstered furniture, mattresses, bedding and stuffed toys soaked in floodwaters.
- Soaked and soiled carpeting should also be discarded. If you try to salvage carpeting, dry it out and then shampoo it with a commercial rug cleaner.

- Clean, dry and check your furnace, water heater, washer, dryer and other appliances before using them. Don't handle electrical equipment in wet areas. Call a plumber or an electrician for professional service.
- To remove odors from refrigerators and freezers, use warm water with a detergent and wipe dry. If an odor persists, try a solution of one teaspoon of baking soda or one cup of household ammonia per gallon of water.
- Throw away foods that have come in contact with floodwaters.
- Make sure everyone involved in flood cleanup work has an up-to-date tetanus shot. Boosters are recommended every ten years.

Flood cleanup tips are available by calling the Allegheny County Health Department at **412-687-ACHD**, visiting its web site at www.achd.net for a Flood Fact Sheet or checking its Community Emergency Guidelines section in Verizon's Greater Pittsburgh White Pages.