

DNR GUIDE TO FLOOD CLEANUP FOR BUSINESSES

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION | WWW.IOWADNR.GOV

INTRODUCTION

It hurts when a flood or some other disaster strikes, but when a disaster affects your ability to live and to work, the burden of cleanup can also be dangerous. Floodwaters can dislodge tanks, drums, pipes, equipment and containers which may hold hazardous materials such as pesticides, chemicals or fuels. The following information is intended to safely and efficiently assist you with disposal options.

FIRST STEPS

1. Contact your insurance agent to determine their protocol for claims. They may need photos, videos or a firsthand view of the disaster. They may also need cost records associated with cleanup and salvage. Take notes and keep records of your cleanup efforts as you do them.

2. Take immediate steps to ensure personal safety. Before you enter property to assess damage and begin cleanup, you must ensure all workers — including yourself — are in a safe environment. It's possible floodwaters could be contaminated with biohazards and pathogens (sewage, medical waste) or other hazardous materials (fuels, farm chemicals, industrial chemicals). Flood-damaged buildings may also have damp areas where molds, mildews and other organisms thrive. Check for mold under carpets and pads, behind wallpaper or draperies, behind drywall, wallboard and wood, on pipes, inside ductwork and above ceiling tiles. Be alert to emotional exhaustion or strain as it could impair one's ability to act safely.



3. Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), which may include heavy work gloves, respirators or particle masks, watertight boots, steel toed boots, hard hats, goggles, hearing protection when around heavy

equipment, and other PPE appropriate for the situation. Clean-up issues such as mold and mildew can linger after the business is operational and could impact employees especially sensitive to molds.

4. If a product label says caution, warning, danger or poison, then the product contains hazardous chemicals. Some of these chemicals can burn, poison or react violently with water or air and must be stored and disposed of properly.

5. To transport wastes:

- Keep materials in their original containers
- Secure containers during transport
- Never mix products into a single container
- Make sure all products are labeled
- Secure lids

DISPOSAL ASSISTANCE

Businesses that generate less than 220 pounds or 26 gallons of hazardous waste per month may use the Regional Collection Centers for waste disposal. Other businesses must make a hazardous waste determination according to the hierarchy specified in 40 CFR § 262.11.

To locate Regional Collection Centers for Household Hazardous Wastes, call the DNR at 515-725-8200 or go to www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/HouseholdHazardousMaterials/RegionalCollectionCenters.aspx.

For guidance on specific household chemical precautions and disposal, go to: www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/HouseholdHazardousMaterials/ProperDisposal.aspx.





The Iowa Waste Reduction Center works with companies of up to 200 employees and provides confidential non-regulatory environmental technical assistance to Iowa businesses at no cost. Their website also provides waste vendors. To contact the IWRC call 800-422-3109 or go to their website at www.iwrc.org/.

The Iowa Waste Exchange is an organization that brings industries and businesses together to ensure that waste materials that may serve another purpose are diverted from landfills or disposal, and can be reused or recycled. The use of the IWE is free and confidential. Contact IWE at 515-725-8200 or www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/LandStewardship/WasteManagement/BusinessIndustry/FABA/IowaWasteExchangeIWE.aspx.

For television or electronics disposal, refer to the list of registered collectors at www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/waste/crtregsites.pdf?amp;tabid=831.

A list of permitted appliance recyclers is at www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/waste/adplist.pdf?amp;tabid=834.

Fact sheets regarding disposal or recycling of various hard-to-manage products are at www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/LandStewardship/WasteManagement/BusinessIndustry/Recycling/SolidWasteFactSheets.aspx.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For flood-related disease precautions and information from the Iowa Department of Public Health go to www.idph.state.ia.us/EmergencyResponse/Flooding.aspx.

Go to the Center for Disease Control for:

- Cleaning and sanitizing with bleach after an emergency <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/bleach.asp>
- Reentering your flooded home www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/reenter.asp
- Clean up safely after a disaster www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/cleanup/

IDNR FIELD OFFICES

Field Office 1	Manchester	NE	563-927-2640
Field Office 2	Mason City	NC	641-424-4073
Field Office 3	Spencer	NW	712-262-4177
Field Office 4	Atlantic	SW	712-243-1934
Field Office 5	Des Moines	SC	515-725-0268
Field Office 6	Washington	SE	319-653-2135

