

# Humboldt County Public Health

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## FLOOD CLEAN-UP KIT CHECKLIST

- 2 gallon pail or 5 gallon bucket
- Household bleach
  - \*Bleach that is more than 6 months old **SHOULD NOT** be used
- Clean water
- Household cleaner
- Laundry detergent
- Long sleeve gloves (kitchen latex or vinyl)
- Particulate masks
- Box fans or stand fans
- Spray bottles or deck sprayer
- Eye protection – glasses or goggles
- Cleaning sponge or scouring pads
- Scrub brush
- Large heavy duty trash bags or garbage can
- Cleaning towels- paper/reusable

**\*Please note this list is not all inclusive. Every situation is different.**

# CLEANING AND DISINFECTING AFTER A FLOOD

Follow these simple rules for cleaning and disinfecting items after flooding:

1. Items that are broken, have been torn, splintered, cracked, dented, etc. Should be thrown away IMMEDIATELY and replaced.
2. To clean small items soaked by flood waters that will absorb water such as bedding, clothing, stuffed animals, etc.
  - a. Before you wash items in the washing machine, first soak them in cold water (this will help remove mud and filth).
  - b. DO NOT pre-soak in your washer as it may cause damage to the machine (curtains, blankets, accent rugs, and other large items can be hung on a line and sprayed with water from a hose to remove mud and filth).
  - c. Use hot water and detergent when washing items in the washing machine (be careful not to overload the washing machine).
  - d. Add 1 cup of liquid chlorine bleach to wash water before adding clothes or other items, use ½ cup bleach for front loading washers.
  - e. Tumble dry in a dryer or hang items to dry in the sun.
3. Large items that will absorb water, like patio upholstered furniture, mattresses, wall to wall carpeting, etc., that have been soaked by flood waters MUST be thrown away.
4. Items that are solid, or will not absorb water, such as concrete, tile or vinyl flooring, plastic patio furniture, plastic toys, picture frames, etc. Can be cleaned with a mild household detergent solution.
5. Prepare a bleach solution following the manufacturer's label instructions for disinfecting. To disinfect solid items (after cleaning), make a mild bleach and water solution, use the solution in one of these ways:
  - a. Put small objects into the bleach/water solution for one minute. Remove from the solution and allow to air dry.
  - b. Spray the bleach/water solution on the item until thoroughly wet and allow to air dry.
  - c. Use a cloth dipped in the bleach/water solution to completely wipe the item down and allow to air dry.

## IF IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

### Other Helpful Resources:

CDC: [Guidelines for Cleaning Safely After A Disaster - Floodwater and Mold](#)

EPA: [Flooded Homes Cleanup Guidance](#)

EPA: [Things to Keep and Throw Away](#)