

Information for Flood-Damaged Food Premises

Floodwaters can be polluted so all items in contact with water should be treated with caution. Personal hygiene is very important to prevent the spread of disease.

If the premises has been flooded

- Where possible take photos of the damage before clean-up.
- Take everything out that can be moved – floor coverings, furniture, moveable appliances and storage items etc.

In all cases approach your insurance company about damaged good before disposing of them

- Get rid of contaminated carpets, flooring, and upholstered furniture unless they can be cleaned and disinfected.
- Lino will need to be assessed on a case by case basis depending on damage.
- Contact and electrician or electrical supply authority if flood water has affected wiring or wall sockets.
- Contact the gas supply authorities if the gas meter has been affected by water or moving debris.

Cleaning up

- A Building Officer from the local Council can check structural compliance.
- Consult an engineer if there are signs that the premises has moved on its foundations, e.g. new cracks in walls, out of shape door frames etc.
- Wash or flush down walls, shelves and floors with clear water and sweep to remove contaminated water and sediment. Then use a solution of 1 litre household bleach in 10 litres of water to rinse down wall, floors and equipment affected. Leave on for 30 minutes before rinsing with clean water. Keep windows open during this treatment and wear protective clothing. Follow this with a wash of hot water and soap or dishwashing detergent for the final clean down.
- Ventilate the area by opening all windows or use fans, if power is available. Use a commercial deodoriser, if necessary, to remove any remaining smells.

For more information please contact a Health Protection Officer at Toi Te Ora – Public Health Service on 0800 221 555.