



DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND

56 ONTARIO STREET
PO BOX 533
BURK'S FALLS, ON
POA 1C0

(705) 382-3332
Fax: (705) 382-2068
Email: clerk@armourtownship.ca
Website: www.armourtownship.ca

FLOOD INFORMATION PACKAGE & LINKS

During the Flood

Do not pump your septic tank during flooded or saturated drain field conditions. Pumping it out could cause the tank to float out of the ground and may damage the inlet and outlet pipes. The best solution is to plug all drains in the basement and drastically reduce water use in the house.

After the Flood and floodwater has receded

- Do not drink well water until it is tested. Contact your local health department.
- Do not use the sewage system until water in the soil absorption field is lower than the water level around the house.
- Have your septic tank professionally inspected and serviced if you suspect damage. Signs of damage include settling or an inability to accept water. Most septic tanks are not damaged by flooding since they are below ground and completely covered. However, septic tanks and pump chambers can fill with silt and debris and must be professionally cleaned. If the soil absorption field is clogged with silt, a new system may have to be installed.
- Only trained specialists should clean or repair septic tanks because tanks may contain dangerous gases.
- If sewage has backed up into the basement, clean the area and disinfect the floor. Use a chlorine solution of 120 ml of chlorine bleach to 3.8 litres of water to disinfect the area thoroughly.
- Pump the septic system as soon as possible after the flood (not during or if drainfield is saturate). Be sure to pump both the tank and lift station (if applicable). This will remove silt and debris that may have washed into the system.
- Do not compact the soil over the soil absorption field by driving or operating equipment in the area.
- Examine all electrical connections for damage before restoring electricity (if applicable).
- Be sure the septic tank's manhole cover is secure and that inspection ports have not been blocked or damaged.
- Check the vegetation over your septic tank and soil absorption field. Repair erosion damage and sod or reseed areas as necessary to provide turf grass cover.
- Aerobic sewage systems, up-flow filters, trickling filters, and other media filters have a tendency to clog due to mud and sediment. These systems will need to be inspected and serviced to ensure they are in good working condition.



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From the Electrical Safety Authority

There is a heightened risk of electric shock when water contacts electrical systems that could seriously injure or kill you. Follow these electrical safety steps; it could save your life, or the lives of first responders and utility personnel working in the area.

- Do not enter your basement if you know or suspect water has risen above the level of electrical outlets, baseboard heaters, furnace or is near your electrical panel. Electricity can move through water or wet flooring and cause a severe electrical shock.
- In the event that flood water has risen above outlets, baseboard heaters or your furnace, covers power cords, or is near the electrical panel, contact your local electric utility immediately and arrange for them to disconnect power to your home.
- Watch out for downed powerlines in flood-affected areas. If you see one, stay back 10 metres or the length of a school bus and call 9-1-1 and your local electric utility to report it.

Returning home after a flood

If you have water contact or damage to your electrical system:

- If water in your basement has risen above the electrical outlets, baseboard heaters, furnace or electrical panel, DO NOT enter the basement until the power has been disconnected by the local electric utility.
- If your electrical system has been affected, your utility may not be able to restore power to your property until damage has been assessed and necessary repairs have been made.
- Hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor to evaluate your home's electrical system to determine if it is safe to have the local electric utility restore power to your home.
- Find a licensed electrical contractor.

The contractor will file for a permit with the ESA so there is a record of the work;

- When the contractor completes the work, the contractor will notify ESA and the ESA Inspector will confirm work has been done safely and power can be reconnected;
- ESA will inform the utility that it is safe to reconnect;



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- The utility will reconnect when it is able to do so.

Ask the contractor for a copy of the ESA Certificate of Inspection for your records and insurance.

Fact Sheets

- Collecting and Sending Drinking Water Samples – Health Unit Information
- Eat Safe Food – Proper food handling after a flood
- 8 Tips to Mold Clean Up – Things to consider during clean up
- Shopping List for Cleaning Mold – Checklist for consideration
- Mold Clean – Up After Disasters – When to use Bleach

More information can be found by following the links listed below. These links can also be found under Public Notices on the Armour Township website www.armourtownship.ca

1. Health Canada: www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/emu/flood.aspx
2. North Bay Parry Sound Public Health Unit:
www.myhealthunit.ca/en/health-topics/emergencies-and-being-prepared.asp
3. North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority (Septic information and more):
www.nbmca.ca
4. Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO)
<https://www.ontario.ca/document/guidelines-apply-disaster-recovery-assistance-ontarians-drao>



IMPORTANT STEPS

Collecting and Sending Drinking Water Samples

Well-water and **treated surface water** used for drinking can be sent for testing. Untreated surface water will not be tested. You should test your water three times per year: Spring, Summer, and Fall.

Follow the instructions in your water sample kit to collect your drinking water sample.

Fill out the form completely. Note: Your Health Unit # is **2247**.

Samples are not accepted on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, the day before or day of statutory holidays.

Bring your drinking water sample to the Health Unit on the **SAME DAY** you collect it. Keep your sample cool. Samples can be dropped off at the following locations:

MONDAY TO THURSDAY

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Burk's Falls Village Office

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
172 Ontario Street, Burk's Falls

Parry Sound Office
7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
70 Joseph Street, Parry Sound

North Bay Office
7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
345 Oak Street West, North Bay

WEDNESDAY ONLY
West Nipissing Municipal Office
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
225 Holditch Street, Sturgeon Falls

Getting Your Lab Results

Telephone:

Prior to submission, remove one of the barcodes from the sample bottle and place it on the **Water Results by Telephone Card (Blue)**. Follow the instructions on the card.

Mail:

Select the box **"Please mail to my mailing address above"**. The report will be mailed to the address in the top left-hand box of the form.

Pick up at the Laboratory:

Select the box **"Pick up at the laboratory"**. The laboratory will hold the report for two weeks after the sample is



received; it will be mailed after this date. No report will be released without proper identification (photo ID). You may pick up your report at the Orillia Public Health Laboratory (Parry Sound Office submissions) or the Sudbury Public Health Laboratory (North Bay Office, Burk's Falls Office, and West Nipissing Municipal Office submissions).

You will not be able to pick up the report at the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit or the West Nipissing Municipal Office.

Food Safety After a Flood

Flood water can jeopardize the safety of food. Identifying and discarding potentially unsafe food will help to reduce the risk of food-borne illness.

How does a flood make food unsafe?

Flood water may carry dirt, raw sewage, oil, or chemical waste. If flood water comes into contact with a food item, it may be contaminated and should be discarded. Even if a food package appears to be dry, it may have been contaminated and should be discarded.

What do I do with food that may be unsafe because of a flood?

The best thing to do is throw away any food item that has been in contact with contaminated flood water. Even if the food or package appears to be dry, it still may not be safe.

Food that has been contaminated or spoiled may not look different. You cannot usually see chemicals or pathogens on food. The following food safety tips can help you determine which foods to throw out and which to save.

Inspect all items carefully and throw out:

- **All foods with permeable packaging** such as cardboard, plastic wrap, or screw-top lids. This includes home-canned products and dry foods such as flour, sugar, candy, cereal, baked goods, dried beans, and rice.
- **All screw-top containers and food in opened glass or plastic jars and bottles.** Flood water may have seeped into the lids of these containers and contaminated the food.

Only food in sealed, undamaged, airtight metal cans may be considered safe once the cans are cleaned and sanitized before use, according to the instructions in the cleaning section below.

How do I clean after a flood?

It is important to clean and sanitize all surfaces and equipment that has been in contact with flood water. This includes: utensils/silverware, cookware, dishware, food contact surfaces, food preparation equipment, floors, floor sinks, floor drains, and furniture.

Use the following cleaning and sanitizing method to clean and disinfect:

1. Thoroughly wash with soap and water
2. Rinse with clean water
3. Sanitize by immersing in:
 - A mild bleach solution made with 5 ml (1 tsp) bleach per 750 ml (3 cups) water; or
 - Hot water of 77°C (170°F) or hotter
4. Air dry thoroughly.

Closed, undamaged cans containing food can be sanitized by placing them in water and allowing the water to boil for at least two minutes.

Alternatively, you can immerse them for two minutes in a mild bleach solution made with 5 ml (1 tsp) bleach per 750 ml (3 cups) of water.

Remove labels prior to washing and sanitizing.

Cans that have been cleaned and sanitized should be used as soon as possible as they may rust.

Cans that are bulging or damaged are unsafe and unusable and should be thrown away immediately.

If you suspect that your equipment and utensils have become contaminated during storage, clean and sanitize them just prior to use, even though you may have already cleaned, or sanitized them.

If you have had a power failure as a result of the flood:

- Without power, the refrigerator section will keep foods cool for 4-6 hours if the door is kept closed.
- Throw out perishable foods such as meat, fish, poultry, eggs, and leftovers that have been at temperatures above 4°C (40°F) for more than two hours.
- Keep the freezer door closed to keep it cold inside.
- Without power, an upright or chest freezer that is completely full will keep food frozen for about two days. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen for one day.
- Foods that have thawed in the freezer may be re-frozen if they still contain ice crystals.
- Discard any items in either the freezer or the refrigerator that have come into contact with raw meat juices.
- If you're not sure whether an item is spoiled, play it safe and throw it out.

If there was a flood at your food premises, please notify Huron Perth Public Health. A flood damaged food premises cannot reopen until permitted by a public health inspector.

Reminder

When there is any doubt about the safety of a food product, it should be thrown out as a precaution.

IF IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

Questions?

Call 1-888-221-2133 ext 3670.

December 2025

Adapted with permission of Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health

8 TIPS TO CLEAN UP MOLD



Protect Yourself

Put on personal protective equipment (gloves, mask, goggles) to protect your eyes, nose, mouth, and skin.



Toss!

Take it out! Anything that was wet with flood water and can't be cleaned and dried completely within 24 to 48 hours should be taken outside. Take photos of discarded items for filing insurance claims.



Air it out

Open all doors and windows when you are working, and leave as many open as you safely can when you leave.



Circulate

When electricity is safe to use, use fans and dehumidifiers to remove moisture.



Don't mix cleaners

If you use cleaning products, do not mix cleaning products together. **DO NOT** mix bleach and ammonia because it can create toxic vapors.



Scrub surfaces

Clean with water and a detergent. Remove all mold you can see. Dry right away.



Don't cover it, remove it

Painting or caulking over mold will not prevent mold from growing. Fix the water problem completely and clean up all the mold before you paint or caulk.



Dry it up

Dry your home and everything in it as quickly as possible – within 24 to 48 hours if you can.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mold/cleanup.htm>





What to do if your home is flooded?

- If water rises near your electrical outlets, baseboard heaters or furnace, or electrical panel, call 1-800-434-1235 to have your power disconnected.
- If any water damage to electrical equipment occurs, a Licensed Electrical Contractor needs to conduct an evaluation and make any necessary repairs before Hydro One can restore power.
- Be sure to keep your emergency kit in a backpack and make sure everyone in your home knows where to find it. See below for what to include.



[HydroOne.com/Safety](https://www.hydroone.com/safety)



1.888.664.9376

Customer Care Centre
Weekdays 7:30am – 8pm



1.800.434.1235

Emergencies and Power Outages
24/7

Emergency preparedness kit



Water
(recommend 2L
per person/day)



Canned or
dried food
that won't spoil



A manual
can opener



Cash



Windup or
battery powered
flashlight



Windup or
battery powered
radio



Extra
batteries



Any medical
items you
require



First aid kit



Blankets



Candles and matches.
Remember to never leave a
burning candle unattended



At least one corded phone; a cordless
phone will not work in a power outage



Fully charged cell-phone and
portable power bank chargers



Hydro One's emergency
power outage hotline

1.800.434.1235