

FLOOD RECOVERY

Topic Fact Sheet

Mold and Drinking Water Resources

Major flooding and other disasters can lead to drinking water contamination and mold issues inside homes. Pesticide products known as antimicrobials may play a role in cleanup and decontamination measures following a flood. Antimicrobials work by killing or slowing the growth of microorganisms. The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) has compiled the following resources for more information.

Cleaning Flooded Upholstered Furniture, Curtains, Bedding, Table Linens, and Other Household Textiles - North Carolina State University Extension

Flood Cleanup - Also available in **Vietnamese** - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Creating a Healthy Home: A Field Guide for Clean-Up of Flooded Homes - National Center for Healthy Housing

First Steps to Flood Recovery - Purdue University Extension



Controlling Mold with Antimicrobial Pesticides

Water damage from floods can lead to the formation of **mold** inside homes and other structures. Molds produce tiny invisible spores as they reproduce that can affect human health. There are several steps you can take to reduce mold inside your home:

- Clean and dry any damp or flooded materials and furnishings as soon as possible to prevent mold growth.
- Decrease the humidity in your house to help to control mold.
- Hard non-porous surfaces can sometimes be cleaned of mold growth, but absorbent materials like carpeting and drywall may have to be replaced if they become moldy.
- Make sure any **antimicrobial product you choose** has an EPA Registration number, and is designed specifically for your situation. Always **read and follow all label directions** carefully.

A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Recommendations for HVAC Systems - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Mold Cleanup and Remediation - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Facts About Mold - American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)

Antimicrobials for Drinking Water Systems

Flooding can cause **drinking water supplies** to become contaminated with microorganisms that can be harmful if you drink the water. **Public drinking water** treatment facilities or health officials may issue advisories regarding public drinking water safety before, during, and after a flood event.

Private well water can also become contaminated with microorganisms during a flood and remain affected for months depending on groundwater conditions. As such, your well may require a long-term testing and disinfection strategy. Consult your local health department or **state contact for private well water resources** for testing and additional well water resources.

Drinking Water Contaminants - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Community Drinking Water Use - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Private Drinking Water Wells: What to Do After the Flood - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

State Certification Officers for Drinking Water Laboratories - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Disinfecting Wells Following an Emergency - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Disinfection - National Environmental Services Center Tech Brief

Chlorination - National Environmental Services Center Tech Brief



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