

FLOORS, WALLS & CLOSETS

1. Wash down while still wet to remove all dirt from floors, walls and shelving.
2. Remove and discard absorbent materials such as wallcoverings and sheetrock.
3. Scrub all flooded indoor surfaces with warm, soapy water — pay close attention to areas where small children play and any food-contact surface (counter tops, pantry shelves, refrigerators, cutting boards, etc.).
4. Rinse all surfaces with a solution made of ½ cup liquid household bleach to each gallon of water.
5. Allow floors, walls and shelving to thoroughly dry.
6. Do not paint or apply floor coverings until thoroughly dry. Plaster or stucco repairs can be done while still wet (consult a local dealer for specific instructions).

CARPETS & RUGS

All carpets and rugs should be steam cleaned.

BEDDING, LINENS & CLOTHING

All bedding, linens and clothing should be washed thoroughly or dry-cleaned.

1. Brush off all loose dirt.
2. Hose off or rinse in cool water to remove mud.
3. Wash in hot water — add a disinfectant to the rinse water (Clorox or Lysol, for example).

If items cannot be washed or dry-cleaned (mattresses, for example):

1. Air-dry in the sun.
2. Vacuum.
3. Spray thoroughly with a disinfectant solution made of ¼ cup liquid household bleach to each gallon of water.

FURNITURE

Upholstered furniture that is soaked by floodwater should be discarded or cleaned by a professional cleaning service. Lightly damaged upholstered furniture may be cleaned at home:

1. Brush off any loose dirt and shampoo the fabric.
2. Clean mildewed areas using a cloth dampened with diluted alcohol (1 cup denatured alcohol to 1 cup water).
3. Dry thoroughly.

Wooden and other solid furniture:

1. Remove from house and remove drawers, glides, etc. Do not force open drawers.
2. Remove the back of furniture to allow air to circulate.
3. Thoroughly clean each piece
4. Allow each piece to thoroughly dry indoors before reassembling. Do not leave wood in the sun — the sun may cause wood to warp and twist out of shape.

COOKING & EATING UTENSILS

1. Discard soft plastic and porous items.
2. Clean thoroughly with hot water and detergent.
3. Rinse by immersing for 1 minute in a solution of 2 tablespoons liquid household bleach to each gallon of water.
4. Allow to air dry.
5. If using a dishwasher — use the hot water setting, do not use the energy saving setting.

WELL & WATER SYSTEM DISINFECTION

For specific instructions on disinfecting wells and water systems, contact the Department of Environmental Health Drinking Water Program at 408-918-3400 or log onto our web site at www.EHinfo.org.

WARNING

Do not mix chlorine bleach (or any cleaning products containing chlorine bleach) with vinegar, oven cleaner, ammonia, lye, rust remover, or toilet cleaners. When chlorine combines with these products chlorine gas is formed — chlorine gas is highly irritating and can cause serious injury.