



Iowa Department of Public Health Division of Environmental Health

Fact Sheet for Restaurants After Flooding Occurs

According to the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, when food has been contaminated by flood or wastewater, the following precautions should be taken:

- 1) Throw away food that may have come in contact with flood or waste water.
- 2) Throw away any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture.
- 3) Throw away perishable foods (including meat, milk, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers) that have been above 41° F for more than two hours due to an electrical outage.
- 4) Frozen food that contains ice crystals and is 41° F or below can be refrozen or cooked unless contaminated by flood or waste water.
- 5) Throw away all canned foods contaminated by flood or waste water, as you cannot ensure all contaminants can be removed by washing and sanitizing.
- 6) Dispose of food containers with screw caps, snap-lids, crimped caps (soda pop bottles), twist caps, caps that snap-open and home-canned foods that have been contaminated by the flood or waste water.
- 7) Do not use contaminated water in icemakers, coffee makers, soda pop dispensers, and do not make baby formula with contaminated water.

- 8) Do not use contaminated water to wash and prepare food or to wash hands before preparing or eating food.
- 9) Clean the building-safely!
 - Wear rubber boots, gloves, goggles and coveralls
 - Wear an N-95 mask for mold protection
- 10) Clean the building-floors and walls
 - Remove sewage, solids, water;
 - Scrub with brush, soap;
 - Rinse and then sanitize floors, walls; and
 - Dry quickly with fans.
- 11) Clean all food equipment
 - Clean all hard equipment surfaces with soap and water;
 - Rinse and sanitize before use; and
 - Clean mixers, ice machines, etc.
- 12) Discard damaged building items.
 - Discard all porous, contaminated items that cannot be cleaned

For more information please call the Department of Inspections and Appeals at 515-281-6538

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
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