



28 Midlothian Road, Burk's Falls ON, POA 1C0

Tel: (705) 382-3232

clerk@ryersontownship.ca

<https://ryersontownship.ca>

Flood Information: Safety Guidance and Links

The following information is provided to assist residents during and after flooding events. Please review carefully to help protect your health, property, and safety.

During the Flood

- Do not pump your septic tank during flooded or saturated drain field conditions. Pumping may cause the tank to float and damage pipes.
 - Plug all basement drains and significantly reduce water use in your home.
-

After the Flood (Once Water Has Receded)

- Do not drink well water until it has been tested. Contact your local health department.
- Do not use the sewage system until the soil absorption field water level is lower than the surrounding ground water.
- Have your septic system professionally inspected if damage is suspected.
- Only trained professionals should clean or repair septic tanks due to dangerous gases.
- If sewage has backed up into your basement, clean and disinfect using a solution of 120 ml chlorine bleach to 3.8 litres of water.
- Pump the septic system as soon as possible after the flood (not during flooding or when the drain field is saturated).
- Avoid driving or operating equipment over the septic field to prevent soil compaction.
- Check all electrical connections before restoring power.
- Ensure septic tank covers and inspection ports are secure and undamaged.
- Repair erosion and restore vegetation over septic areas.

- Advanced treatment systems (aerobic systems, filters, etc.) may clog and require servicing.
-

Electrical Safety – Important

Flooding creates a serious risk of electrical shock.

- Do not enter a basement if water may have reached electrical outlets, heaters, furnaces, or the electrical panel.
 - If water has reached electrical systems, contact your local utility to disconnect power immediately.
 - Stay at least 10 metres away from downed power lines and call 9-1-1 and your utility provider.
-

Returning Home After a Flood

- Do not enter flooded areas until power has been safely disconnected.
- Electrical systems must be assessed before power can be restored.
- Hire a licensed electrical contractor to inspect your home.

Process for Power Restoration:

1. Contractor obtains a permit through the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA).
2. Work is completed and reported to ESA.
3. ESA inspects and confirms safety.
4. ESA notifies the utility.
5. Utility restores power when safe to do so.

Be sure to request a copy of the ESA Certificate of Inspection for your records and insurance.

Additional Resources & Fact Sheets

- Collecting and sending drinking water samples (Health Unit guidance)
- Food safety after flooding
- Mold cleanup tips and safety considerations
- Cleaning supply checklist for mold removal

- Guidelines for mold cleanup after disasters, including when to use bleach
-

For more information or assistance, please contact your local municipal office or health authority.

More information can be found by following the links listed below. These links can also be found under Public Notices on the Ryerson Township website www.ryersontownship.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>



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



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>



SHOPPING LIST FOR CLEANING

MOLD

IN YOUR HOME AFTER A FLOOD

Essential List of Items for Cleaning Mold:

- Bucket
- Stiff bristle brush
- N-95 respirators, or ones that provide more protection (check packaging for “N-95”)
- Goggles
- Protective rubber gloves
- Waterproof rubber boots
- Dish detergent
- Household bleach

Other Items That Can Be Helpful:

- Wet/dry vacuum
- Large plastic trash bags
- Towels (not fancy)
- Paper towels (for light cleanup and washing your own hands, etc.)
- Large plastic resealable bags for precious items
- First-aid kit
- Bottled drinking water

BE SAFE WHEN CLEANING UP MOLD!



Designate a safe, mold-free area outside of the mold cleanup area for first aid, personal hygiene, and storing/accessing food and water.



When working in areas with mold, wear a N-95 respirator and wear protective gloves, boots, and clothing. Be sure to follow the instructions for wearing the respirator.



Wash your hands thoroughly after mold cleanup, and change your clothes after working on mold cleanup activities.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

**FOR GUIDANCE ON HOW TO CLEAN UP MOLD, SEE THE HOMEOWNER'S
AND RENTER'S GUIDE TO MOLD CLEANUP AFTER DISASTERS AT:**

www.cdc.gov/mold/cleanup.htm