

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

No. 101.1

CLEANING UP FLOODWATER

- Do not swim in floodwater and ensure that you and your children stay away from creeks and storm-water drains.
- Wear gloves and covered shoes when cleaning up after a flood, and treat any cuts immediately with an antiseptic.
- Wear a mask over nose and mouth when using a hose or high-pressure hose to clean up after floods to avoid breathing contaminated water droplets.
- Avoid unnecessary contact with mud and dirt.
- Disinfect all surfaces after cleaning up silt and debris.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect refrigerators and food storage areas.
- Thoroughly clean with hot water and detergent, any cooking and eating utensils in contact with floodwater.
- Throw out flood-damaged food.
- Always wash hands with soap and water before handling food, and after handling any contaminated objects or pets that may have swum in contaminated water.
- Ensure that the electrical system is safe.

fact sheet