

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

No. 101.12

LOOKING AFTER YOUR YARD

YOUR YARD WAS FLOODED, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

- Treat all floodwater as potentially contaminated with sewage.
- Yards should be raked to remove debris. If necessary hose down the yard, apply builder's lime carefully and wet down the lime.
- Septic systems often do not work properly during flooding, or when the soil is very wet. Flooding of a septic system may lead to a back-up of sewage in the home and lack of sanitation until the system is fixed. Septic systems may need to be pumped out and the soil and surrounding areas need time to dry out.
- If you suspect your septic tank is damaged have it professionally inspected and/or serviced.
- To avoid mosquitoes breeding in your yard, remove rubbish that is water logged, empty out pot plant bases, and try to encourage drainage from your yard.
- If you use a water bore or well for domestic purposes and that bore has been inundated with floodwaters, you should purge the bore three times the volume of the bore before using the water. If you have continued concerns, please contact the Department of Natural Resources Environment and the Arts on 8999 4892.
- Seek medical assistance if you have, or if any of your family, have severe vomiting or diarrhoea. If you have these symptoms, you will require extra fluids containing a mixture of electrolytes and sugars; such as Gastrolyte, which can be purchased from local chemists.