Returning home after floods and storms

If you have been evacuated from your home because of a disaster, ensure the safety and health of your family. Following the initial damage caused by storms and floods, stress, injury and disease may be more likely.

Safety Considerations

- Before returning home check that officials (Police, State emergency Services (SES) or council) have declared the area safe
- Check all the power and gas supplies have been turned off
- If your house was flooded, an electrician will need to check wiring before power is restored
- Do not use a generator enclosed inside, due to carbon monoxide risk
- Beware of slip hazards and don’t over use water
- Do not use high pressure water or break up fibro and asbestos containing material

Protect Yourself

- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser
- Avoid contact with floodwater – do not walk or wade through flood water if you can avoid it
- Wear protective clothing long pants, boots, and gloves
- Immediately clean, disinfect and waterproof all wounds. See your doctor and get your tetanus booster if needed
- Seek medical attention immediately if wounds show signs of infection
- Open doors and windows use fans or air-conditioners on dry setting to increase ventilation and remove dampness. Surfaces with mould can be cleaned with household detergent or a white vinegar solution
- Disinfect surfaces which have come into contact with floodwater

Further Information:

See your doctor or health clinic
For health information call your local Public Health Unit on (07) 4433 6900
Call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) for qualified health advice anytime
Or visit: https://www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/recovery-after-disaster/cleaning-up