

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>