

September 28, 2022

## Proper Sewage Cleanup Procedures



**Contact:**

Cynthia Leckey, EH Director  
brevard.ehs@flhealth.gov  
321-633-2100

**Viera, FL —** Heavy rainfall may result in flood waters that are contaminated. The following cleaning and disinfecting procedures are recommended to prevent illness.

### How to clean up sewage contaminated items and sewage spills inside your home

- Wear protective clothing, such as rubber boots and waterproof gloves.
- Clean hard-surfaced walls and floors and other household surfaces with soap and water, followed by disinfecting with a solution of ¼ cup of bleach in one gallon of water. Once cleanup is complete, dry out affected items to prevent the growth of mold.
- Remember to not mix bleach with ammonia cleaners or acids because a dangerous gas will be formed.
- Wash all linens and clothing in hot water or have them dry cleaned.
- Discard items that cannot be washed or dry cleaned, such as mattresses, carpeting, wall coverings and upholstered furniture.

### For spills outside your home

- Contact your utility company or a registered septic tank contractor for cleanup.
- Minor spills requiring immediate attention may be disinfected with regular garden lime (calcium hydroxide). Follow the lime container's label instructions for any personal protective equipment needed.
  - Only use lime outdoors.
  - Sprinkle the lime onto the spill so the spill is dusted mostly white on the surface. To remove solids and thicker residue, use a rake and place the material into a trash bag for disposal. Sprinkle lime again on the area.
  - After a day, rake up the thicker residue again and place it in a trash bag for disposal. Use a sprinkler or hose to water the remainder of the lime and residue into the soil.
  - Let the area dry in the sun for a day before allowing access. If there is still white lime dust visible on the yard, water it until the white dust is gone.

### Follow proper hygiene procedures to prevent illness

- Keep hands and fingers away from the nose, mouth, eyes and ears.
- Wash hands with soap and water immediately after cleanup efforts, as well as before eating or drinking.
- Keep fingernails short and clean them by using a stiff brush to remove dirt and foreign materials.
- Do not mix clean and used work clothes.
- Shower soon after cleaning up sewage or if you were in contaminated flood waters.

## About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla\\_and](#) on Facebook. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov).

###