
Protecting On-site Septic Systems During Flood Conditions

What You Need to Know



How can I prevent sewage back-up?

Floodwater can increase pressure on your on-site septic system, leading to possible on-site septic back-ups. Whenever the water table is high, or your sewage system is threatened by floodwater, you run the risk that sewage will back up into your home. Relieving pressure on the system—by using it less—is the only way you can prevent a back-up.

What if my sewage system becomes flooded?

Stop using your sewage system:

- If your septic tank or drainfield becomes flooded.
- If you can see any raw sewage or "grey water" on the surface of the ground as a result of wastewater leaking from your system.
- If wastewater begins to enter your home through drains or plumbing fixtures.

After the flood

If your drainfield has been flooded, you may or may not be able to use it again. It is recommended that the system be professionally inspected to determine if damage has occurred. You may need to relocate your drainfield to a site with more suitable soil conditions.

Resources

- Contact Oakland County Health Division Environmental Health Services at 248-858-1312 for more information.
- Visit the [United States Environmental Protection Agency's website](https://www.epa.gov/) for more information or call their WellCare at 1-888-395-1033 for assistance.



NURSE ON CALL PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION HOTLINE
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