

FLOODWATCH TIPS

Flood Information Regarding On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems

PREPARING FOR A FLOOD

When flooding is imminent

1. Do not pump the septic tank or package treatment plant as this could cause the tank to float out of the ground or fracture, (unless it has been specifically engineered for this)
2. Turn off electrical power to the system (pump, alarms etc)
3. Turn off electrical power to the package treatment plant, where applicable.

Do not use the system until after flood waters have receded and you have repaired any damage.

AFTER THE FLOOD

After flood waters have receded*

1. Examine the sewage system and disposal field for signs of physical damage such as exposed pipes, soil erosion, heavy silt deposits etc.
2. Where it appears the sewage system may be damaged, contact an Authorized Person for inspection, maintenance and repair of the sewage system. If damage is extensive, a Filing may be required. (Call your local public health office for more information.)
3. Once the ground water has subsided sufficiently so that tanks will not float, have the septic tank and chambers pumped out by a commercial pumping service to remove any mud, silt, or debris and check the tank outlet and distribution box for any blockages. Clean out gross contamination before flushing any lines. Be sure the sewer line leading from the house to the septic tank is clear of dirt and debris.
4. If you have a package treatment plant, have the plant professionally serviced.
5. Do not use or contact electrical equipment (ozonators, alarms, electrical boxes, etc) that have been exposed to water until they have been assessed and passed by a qualified person.
6. Refer to the cleanup procedures in "Flood Information for Homeowners" if sewage has backed up into the house or if the house has been flooded.
7. Do not use the sewage disposal system until it is determined to be functioning properly

* assuming the sewage system has been flooded

Note: These recommendations do not cover measures for physical protection of the sewage system from flood waters (erosion, silting etc). Property owners may wish to take their own measures to minimize flood water damage to their system.