

## How to clean a home after a flood

Here's some advice as to how to clean a home after a flood.

- Remove all soft furnishing and fittings that are damaged beyond repair.
- Wash all hard surfaces with hot soapy water.
- Food preparation surfaces, such as kitchen worktops, storage cupboards, fridges and freezers should be washed with food-safe disinfectant.
- Allow areas you've cleaned to dry naturally. This will help to destroy any germs left behind.
- Leave the heating on, if possible, and open your windows as it will help with the drying process.
- If you don't feel safe cleaning up alone, you can hire professional cleaners to help.
- Wash clothes, bedding and toys that have been in contact with floodwater at 60°C.
- Soft fabrics and furnishings that can't fit or can't go in the washing machine need to be professionally cleaned. If it's not possible, you need to throw the items away.

## How to use your home again after a flood

Moving back to your home or living in your home again after a flood can be a difficult time.

- We recommended you don't use rooms that have been flooded until they've been cleaned and dried.
- Try and have the heating on at all times.
- If you rent your home, your landlord is usually responsible for repairs. [More information about repairs to rented homes](#)
- Using a dehumidifier can make sitting in a wet or damp room more comfortable, but we recommend not living in rooms that haven't yet dried.

## How to prepare food and drink after a flood

Before you make food in a house that's been flooded, you should make sure it's safe to do so.

- If your kitchen worktops show signs of flood damage, don't use them.
- Clean all crockery, pots and pans with hot soapy water before you use them. You can use disinfectant to clean them. Chipped or damaged items should be thrown away
- Clean and disinfect water taps before you use them. Make sure United Utilities have given the go ahead that the water is safe to use.
- Throw away all food and drink that's come into contact with floodwater. This includes canned and bottled drinks, such as wine, spirits, beer and soft drinks.
- Don't refreeze food that's thawed.
- Any opened packages not in air-tight containers should be thrown away even if they haven't been in contact with floodwater as they're likely to have become damp.