



Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department

211 Sixth Street

Parkersburg, WV 26101

(304) 485-7374 or 1-888-550-6797

Health Officials Advise Residents for Safe Flood Clean-up

As you begin the task of cleaning up your home and salvaging personal belongings, the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department offers some precautions to help prevent illness.

- ❖ Make sure to protect yourself with a Tetanus vaccine before starting the clean up.
- ❖ When cleaning up your home, be sure to wear protective clothing such as rubber boots and gloves. Keep your hands away from your mouth and face after handling any materials that have been contaminated by flood water and immediately clean, disinfect and bandage all wounds no matter how small. Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water (preferably hot water) before preparing meals, eating or smoking.
- ❖ All floors, walls and ceilings should be hosed down with clean water and scrubbed with a brush or broom in a solution of detergent and hot water, if possible. After scrubbing, use a brush or broom to apply a disinfecting made from four tablespoons of laundry bleach per one gallon of clean water.
- ❖ Most clothing and furniture can be salvaged if it can be cleaned and disinfected. Commercial cleaning of rugs, draperies and clothing is recommended, when possible. Items cleaned at home should be washed in hot, soapy water, rinsed in clean water and dried in an automatic clothes dryer or in open air and sunshine. Special care should be given to children's beds, cribs, toys, playpens and playthings. Stuffed toys should be discarded since they cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected.
- ❖ Furniture made of wood, plastic or metal can usually be salvaged. These items should be cleaned with soap and hot water and allowed to dry in open-air and sunlight. Mattresses and stuffed furniture should be discarded because they cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected.
- ❖ Dishes, plates, bowls, pots, pans and other utensils should be washed in hot, soapy water, then rinsed in clean water and disinfected by submerging for at least one minute in a solution of one tablespoon of bleach per one gallon of clean water. Appliances such as refrigerators and stoves, which contain insulation, are not easily cleaned or disinfected. These items should be examined carefully and discarded if the insulation has been contaminated. If they are salvaged, be sure that electrical appliances are dry and in good mechanical condition before using.

For additional information on flood clean-up activities, call the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department at 1-888-550-6797.