



# CONNECTICUT Consumer Protection

## Safety Tips for Flood Clean Up

***Before traveling, visit [ctroads.org](http://ctroads.org) to familiarize yourself with the locations of roads that are flooded or washed out and seek an alternate route.***

This week's storm caused extensive flooding, building and road damage. If you assist your community with clean-up efforts the tips below will help you remain safe while working.

### General Safety Tips

- **When cleaning up debris and during demolition:**
  - Wear a dust mask or N-95 respirator while cleaning up
  - Wear eye protection
  - Wear protective footwear, steel toe waterproof boots if available
  - Use protective gloves, and never clean up hazardous materials.
  - Wear protective headphones or earplugs if using loud equipment
- **Do not run gas-powered equipment inside buildings:** Carbon monoxide can quickly build up when using generators, chainsaws, and leaf blowers inside garages or buildings.
- **Bring your bug spray:** Consider carrying a bug spray with DEET. Standing water is a breeding ground for mosquitos.
- **Use caution around standing water:** Standing water could be energized from electrical wires, contain sewage, oil, or other hazardous materials.
- **Take all medications:** If you have medical conditions, such as asthma, heart, or lung conditions, be sure to have taken all prescribed medications and if you require inhalers, keep them with you while at work.
- **Stay cool and take frequent breaks:** Try to stay cool by taking frequent breaks in shaded areas, drinking plenty of water and nonalcoholic fluids. Also remember to wear light and loose-fitting clothing.
- The Department of Public Health has [Flooding Information for Homeowners: About Private Wells Sewage and Clean-Up \(ct.gov\)](#)



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## How To Save Undamaged Food Packages Exposed to Flood Water, According to the FDA

*Remember: When in doubt throw it out.*

**Cans with dents, that are swollen, pouches that are not intact, or are weeping should be discarded.**

**Undamaged, commercially prepared foods in all-metal cans and “retort pouches” (like flexible, shelf-stable juice or seafood pouches) can be saved if you follow this procedure:**

1. Remove the labels, if they are the removable kind, since they can harbor dirt and bacteria. As you clean and sort, re-label your cans or retort pouches, including the expiration date, with a permanent marking pen. **Food in reconditioned cans or retort pouches should be used as soon as possible thereafter.**
2. Brush or wipe away any dirt or silt.
3. Thoroughly wash the cans or retort pouches with soap and water, using hot water if it is available.
4. Rinse the cans or retort pouches with water that is safe for drinking, if available, since dirt or residual soap will reduce the effectiveness of chlorine sanitation.
5. Sanitize cans and retort pouches by immersion in one of the two following ways:
  - a. Place in water and allow the water to come to a boil and continue boiling for 2 minutes.
  - b. Place in a solution of 1 cup (8 oz/250 mL) of unscented household (5.25% concentration) bleach mixed with 5 gallons of water and soak for 15 minutes.
  - c. Air dry cans or retort pouches for a minimum of 1 hour before opening or storing.

**Do not:** Recondition products in containers with screwcaps, snap-lids, crimped-caps (soda and beer bottles), twist-caps, flip-top, snap-open, and similar type closures that have been submerged in flood waters. Do not salvage food packed in plastic, paper, cardboard, cloth, and similar containers that have been water damaged.

**Baby Food and Formula** - for infants, try to use prepared, canned baby formula that requires no added water.

For more information review: [Food and Water Safety During Power Outages and Floods | FDA](#)



### **Steps to Secure Alcoholic Beverages**

1. Do not resell products that were submerged in water when sealed with screwcaps, crimp tops, and pop tops as those items can be too difficult to fully sanitize.
2. If you must dispose of alcohol, the alcohol must be destroyed. Dump out each bottle or can, throw away in a locked dumpster, or contact your wholesaler for assistance in destroying the alcohol.
3. You may store untainted alcohol products in your lockable storage, if safe, or you may ask the Liquor Control Division for permission to store off-site. The off-site storage must be secured and locked. Email [DCP.LiquorControl@ct.gov](mailto:DCP.LiquorControl@ct.gov) for more information and approval.
4. You may ask your wholesaler to accept the return of any untainted alcohol products.
5. If you must close your permit premises for any length of time, contact the Liquor Control Division to ensure your permit remains in the proper status at [DCP.LiquorControl@ct.gov](mailto:DCP.LiquorControl@ct.gov).