

Flooding — what to do

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Electrical Hazards

- If there is water in your home, do not use any electrical appliances.
- During or after a flood: call Hydro-Québec to shut off the power and consult an electrician before restoring it.

If possible, before a flood: turn off the electricity.



Danger: Carbon Monoxide (CO)

- Never use combustion-powered devices (gas, propane, etc.) indoors, even with open windows. They produce carbon monoxide (CO), a deadly, invisible, and odorless gas.
- Install a CO detector on every floor and near bedrooms. If it rings, leave immediately and call 911.



Returning to Your Home

- Return during daylight to identify hazards. Wear gloves, rubber boots, and an N95 mask while cleaning.
- Avoid contact with floodwater.
- Eat in a clean, dry area and wash your hands frequently.



Water

- Municipal water: safe to drink unless the city has issued a notice to the contrary.
- If the water is dirty or has a strange smell, use bottled water.



Food

- Throw out anything that has come into contact with floodwater, as well as perishable foods (e.g., fish, meat) left at room temperature for more than 2 hours.
- Freezer: if power is out for more than 6 hours, keep only food that is frozen or frosted.
- Refrigerator: keep whole fruits and vegetables, juices, jams, and condiments (e.g., mustard, salad dressing, mayonnaise).



Cleaning and Mold

- Mold can cause illness (irritation, respiratory infections).
- Clean and dry all flooded surfaces and rooms. Discard water-damaged items (furniture, drywall, etc.).
- Questions? Contact a company recognized by the Régie du bâtiment du Québec (RBQ).



Need help?

Life-threatening emergency: 911

Info-Santé / Info-Social: 811

City of Montréal: 311

Services Québec: 1-877-644-4545

Public Safety: 1-888-643-2433

