



INDOOR CLEANUP OF SEWAGE IN THE HOME

The Ventura County Environmental Health Division is concerned about your health and the spread of disease. Keeping pets, children and others out of areas that are contaminated with sewage will help prevent disease from spreading. Please review the following guidelines in case of a sewage event in your home:

What should you do if there is sewage in your home?

- Limit access to the area. Keep everyone, especially children and pets, out of all wet areas.
- If your entire home has sewage in it, you may need to leave until all areas have been cleaned.

If you have a septic tank:

- Limit the use of water in your home as much as possible.
- The dosing tank will not operate without electricity.
- Flood prone areas and areas filled with water will not allow the septic tank to operate properly until the drain field dries out.

If you have city or municipal sewage:

- Contact your utility company to let them know you are having problems.

How do I properly clean sewage in my home?

- After the sewage is no longer backing up, all areas should be cleaned thoroughly. This includes, but is not limited to, carpets, sheetrock, drywall, and baseboards.
- Wear rubber boots and gloves.
- Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces.
- Remove and discard porous materials. Saturated wall-to-wall carpeting (and the pad) usually cannot be adequately cleaned.
- Disinfect clean-up mops, brooms, and brushes with a 1:10 bleach solution.
- A professional cleaning service may be required to adequately clean and sanitize your home.

What can you do to prevent illness?

- If you come in contact with the sewage, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Wash clothes that come in to contact with sewage in hot water and dry them on high heat. Discard them if they are heavily soiled.
- If you become ill with symptoms such as diarrhea or vomiting, see your doctor.