

# Cleaning Solutions

Product/Area	Recommended directions
<b>Cleaners</b>	Household all purpose cleaner Laundry soap or detergent
<b>Disinfectants</b>	Commercial disinfectants OR to 10 litres of water (volume of a household bucket) ADD one of the following: 25-50ml (1/4 cup) of household bleach OR 8-16ml (dessert spoon) of liquid pool chlorine OR 1.5 - 3g (teaspoon) of granular pool chlorine.
<b>Mould Removers</b>	Commercial mould removers OR 70% solution of white vinegar in water (1litre of vinegar in 450ml water) 80% methylated spirits in water (1 litre of methylated spirits in 250ml of water) 1.5 cups of household chlorine bleach in 10 litres of water (volume of household bucket) White salt growth on brickwork, brush off with a bristle broom when completely dry.
<b>Locks and hinges</b>	Oil promptly to prevent rust.
<b>Photos and documents</b>	Items need to be dried out as soon as possible to prevent the material deteriorating further. More information is available on the SecureNT website <a href="http://www.securent.nt.gov.au">www.securent.nt.gov.au</a> . Refer to: Recovering from Emergencies > Cleaning up your home or business > Photos or documents.
<b>Toys</b>	Soft toys or moulded plastic toys must be adequately cleaned and disinfected. If they have air injection holes they should be discarded. Sand Pits should be drained and sand removed.
<b>Yard</b>	Areas visibly contaminated with sewage can be decontaminated with builders lime. Wet down the lime after application. Alternatively, cover with clean fill topsoil.

# Stay Informed

ABC Katherine Radio	106.1 FM
Community Radio	103.1 FM Katherine 90.1 FM Tindal
Katherine Police	131 444
NT Emergency Services	<a href="http://www.emergency.nt.gov.au">www.emergency.nt.gov.au</a>
Road Report (Recorded Information)	1800 246 199 <a href="http://www.roadreport.nt.gov.au">www.roadreport.nt.gov.au</a>
Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)	1300 659 214 <a href="http://www.bom.gov.au/nt">www.bom.gov.au/nt</a>
Katherine Hospital	8973 9021
Power and Water Corporation	1800 245 092 <a href="http://www.powerwater.com.au">www.powerwater.com.au</a>
Katherine Town Council	8972 5500 <a href="http://www.ktc.nt.gov.au">www.ktc.nt.gov.au</a>
Australian Government Emergency Management	<a href="http://www.ema.gov.au">www.ema.gov.au</a>

**SecureNT website** - your gateway to information on preparing for and getting through emergency situations in the Northern Territory

[www.securent.nt.gov.au](http://www.securent.nt.gov.au)



[facebook.com/secureNT](https://facebook.com/secureNT)



[twitter.com/secureterritory](https://twitter.com/secureterritory)

## NT Emergency recovery and coordination

The Department of the Chief Minister is responsible for coordinating the recovery phase of an emergency. The SecureNT website is a portal for information about Northern Territory emergencies and includes links to all key agencies.

Information in this brochure was sourced from SecureNT.

## Your personal health and well-being

The aftermath of a flood can be devastating and recovery can be a long, tiring and complex process. Please look after yourself and your family first.

Red Cross have a range of fact sheets available.

[www.redcross.org.au/emergency-resources.aspx](http://www.redcross.org.au/emergency-resources.aspx)

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This material was produced with funding provided by the Northern Territory and Australian Governments through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program.

This brochure was updated 6th September, 2012

# Flood Safe Katherine

## Recovery

### Some practical tips about cleaning flood affected areas in your home

After flood waters have receded, important information will be provided to the community via local media, including:

- When it is safe to go home
- What is happening with the recovery process
- What support is available
- Where to go to get information and assistance

**Listen to the radio for information and advice 106.1 FM ABC Radio Katherine**



If your property or contents have been damaged by flood water contact your insurance company and lodge a claim as quickly as possible



Northern  
Territory  
Government



Australian Government

# Safety First

**Remain in your shelter area until authorities have declared it is safe to return home. Drive slowly!**

## Returning home

- Check that your neighbours are ok!
- Check outside BEFORE you enter your home.
- Look out for snakes and other animals.
- Check for damage to windows, walls or the roof.
- Use only a torch until you're sure there is no gas around.
- When you are reunited with pets, please consider that fear or stress may make them aggressive. Approach your pets cautiously.



**After a flood, make sure the electricity and gas is turned off BEFORE going inside your home.**

## Safety inside your home

- Use a torch for inspections inside buildings. Never use matches, candles or lighters.
- Do not use any electrical appliances which were, or may have been, affected by flood/storm water.
- Discard or dispose of any appliance that may have been affected. Cut or remove power cord so it cannot be used by anyone else.
- Do not try to replace circuit fuses or switch power onto wiring or other equipment that has been flooded until the electrical installation is thoroughly dry and has been checked by a licensed electrician.
- Have gas appliances inspected and cleaned to prevent a gas explosion or fire.
- Check smoke detectors are still working.

## Around the yard

- Please act with Caution! Treat all floodwater as potentially contaminated with sewage.
- Pools of stagnant water around your home can become mosquito breeding grounds - empty pot plant bases, remove waterlogged debris and try to encourage drainage from your yard.

# General Household Clean Up

**After the waters have receded from your home, what do you need to do?**

- Prevent injuries and wear suitable protective clothing, including boots and gloves while cleaning up.
- Begin drying out the house as soon as floodwater recede.
  - ▶ Open doors and windows during dry days (fans will help).
  - ▶ Attempt to drain water away from under the house to increase airflow.
  - ▶ Check for trapped water and mud in wall or floor cavities.
- Wash mud, dirt and debris from your house with a hose, starting at the highest point and working down to ground level.
- Where possible, remove all wet items such as floor coverings, rugs, furniture, bedding and clothing. If floor coverings are removed, thoroughly clean and dry the floor underneath before new material is laid.
- Hard surfaced floors, walls, benches and sinks should be thoroughly cleaned with hot soapy water and disinfected with chlorine bleach solution (see Cleaning Solutions table in this brochure) or product labelled as a disinfectant. Once disinfected allow to dry.
- Mould may develop if items are not completely dried. Mould may be removed with household bleach, however the strength of the product may ruin some household items. Wear a mask when working with heavy mould.
- Linen, blankets and clothing should be washed in hot water (if instructions allow) or dry-cleaned.
- Flood affected mattresses are difficult to treat and may need to be discarded.
- Foam rubber mattresses may be thoroughly washed with a garden hose. A detergent solution should then be squeezed through the mattress before allowing it to dry.
- Other types of mattresses or furniture, such as lounge chairs, may be air dried in the sun then sprayed thoroughly with a disinfectant solution.

*Front photo: Damaged home after the flood, Jan 1998  
(Photo by Toni Tapp Coutts)*

# Kitchen Clean Up

## Food safety

- **IF IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!**
- Do not use tap water for drinking and/or food preparation, until authorities have declared it safe.
- Always wash your hands before handling food.
- Dispose of all food, including frozen, that has come in contact with flood waters.
- Most perishable food in the tropics will spoil after three hours without refrigeration.
- Food in fridges will spoil if power is cut for more than 4 hours.
- Food in freezers will generally not defrost and spoil for at least 24 hours if the door has been kept shut.

## Cleaning and sanitising kitchen items

- Discard any items made of porous material, such as wood, plastic or rubber and dishes with deep cracks as they cannot be adequately sanitised.
- Dishes, pots and pans should be carefully inspected, washed and sanitised before they are used again.
- Run your washing machine and dishwasher through a cycle before use to ensure pipes are clean and undamaged.
- Cupboards and counters need to be cleaned with hot soapy water and rinsed with a chlorine bleach solution before use.
- After washing in hot soapy water and then rinsing, sanitise items as follows;
  - ▶ Immerse glass, porcelain, china and enamelware for 10 minutes in a disinfection solution of 1 tablespoon of chlorine bleach per 2 litres of hot water. Air-dry dishes. Do not use a towel.
  - ▶ Disinfect silverware, metal utensils and pots and pans by boiling in water for 10 minutes. Chlorine bleach should not be used in this case because it reacts with many metals and causes them to darken.
- Domestic dishwashers are capable of sanitising all eating and cooking utensils. Do not use a dishwasher that has been exposed to flood water.