

Harris County Community!

Protect Yourself: Cleanup after Sewage Backup

After a major storm, like a hurricane, power outages may occur in your community. With no electricity, there may not be enough power for the sewer lines (lift stations) to push the sewage to the wastewater plants. This may cause sewage to back-up into your home through places like your toilets and bathtubs.

***It is important to cleanup sewage backup
as soon as possible to prevent illnesses.***

What are the health risks of sewage?

Sewage contains many germs that can make you sick such as Hepatitis A and Shigella. Symptoms from being exposed to sewage may include diarrhea, stomach pain, fever, chills, and vomiting. **Seek medical attention right away.**

What can I do to keep it from backing up?

- limit the amount of water going down the drain
- try to find other locations to use the bathroom, shower and to wash clothes

What should I do to when cleaning up sewage?

- keep children and pets out of the area
- protect yourself: wear long pants and long sleeve shirts, rubber boots and gloves
- use cleaning supplies, such as brooms, mops, buckets, hose and disinfectants
- clean and make germ-free* all items and surfaces touched by sewage

ALWAYS THROW AWAY:

- √ items that cannot be washed and made germ-free, such as cosmetics, books, medicines, mattresses, stuffed animals, toys, carpet, upholstered furniture
- √ food that may have come in contact with sewage water

* use 1 cup of unscented household bleach
in 5 gallons of water

Harris County

HCPHES

Public Health & Environmental Services

www.hcphe.org

**Protect your family.
Protect yourself.
Clean up sewage!**

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