



Fact Sheet

Floods: When the Cleanup Begins

Dealing with Flood Garbage and Water Concerns

Floodwaters are receding but debris remains that can cause serious pollution problems and result in ill health effects.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) has developed this fact sheet to outline what you can do to ensure that the waste and debris remaining from floodwaters is disposed of in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

Please follow these guidelines to dispose of the flood waste. Any questions about which materials can be landfilled, burned or recycled will be answered promptly by calling:

Landfill waste – 217-524-3300

Open burning waste – 217-782-2113

Immediate emergency – 800-782-7860

Outdoor chemical – 217-782-3637
contamination.

Recycling Flood Waste

Uncontaminated sand and sandbags can be recycled for other household and industrial uses, or they can be used as fill for roads and holes. Common sense should be used. For example, sand that may have come into contact with sewage should not be used in children's sand boxes. Please remove sandbags strewn about the flood area, they can cause a serious pollution problem if they are not disposed of properly.

Household appliances, also known as "white goods," can be recycled by taking them to a local scrap dealer, who will remove potentially dangerous components. For information on scrap dealers in your area check the yellow pages or call a local appliance retailer.

In addition, we encourage other recyclable materials to be separated and recycled such as metal debris and plastics.

Tires also must be disposed of properly. Units of local government may accumulate used and waste tires recovered via flood cleanup for collection by the Illinois EPA. Contact the Illinois EPA at 217/785-8604 for immediate collection.

Household Hazardous Flood Waste Disposal

Household hazardous waste and other chemical products should be disposed of properly to avoid health and pollution risks.

These waste materials may require special handling.



Sealed Drum and Propane Tank Disposal

Sealed drums, propane tanks and other pressurized gas cylinders with unknown contents should not be handled by untrained persons. Please notify the Illinois EPA Office of Emergency Response at 217-782-3637 or Illinois Emergency Management Agency at 800-782-7860. To dispose of propane tanks, contact the nearest propane distributor. Propane tanks have serial numbers that will allow for identification of tank owners and locations.

Landfilling Flood Waste

You may dispose of the following items in your local landfill: lumber, trees, branches, brush, sand, sandbags, plastic sheeting, shingles, insulation, animal carcasses, grain, animal feed, food, carpet, furniture, metal debris and machinery.

Appliances can not be disposed of in landfills, because components on the appliances that contain Freon, mercury, PCBs and other hazardous chemical must first be removed by licensed professionals. Therefore, household appliances must be recycled through a local scrap dealer.

Clean Fill Generated By the Flood

The disposal of clean fill such as:

Flood silt and sediment, sand from sandbags, concrete, bricks, rock, stone, gravel, uncontaminated dirt is unrestricted.

Care should be taken not to accumulate or remove the materials in a way that causes a nuisance condition.

Burning Flood Waste

Tree limbs, brush, natural wood and plant debris:

- Burned on site where generated: No Permit Necessary
- At community sites under supervision by unit of local government: No Permit Necessary

Agricultural Waste (bags, cartons, dry bedding, structural materials and crop residue):

- Burned on site where generated: No Permit Necessary

Clean wood building debris, lumber, and canvas sandbags:

- Permit is necessary from Illinois EPA: Permit Needed

If using an Air Curtain Destructor: The owner or operator must obtain an open burning permit from the Illinois EPA and comply with the requirements for local siting, if applicable. Note that under the Emergency Powers Act, the Governor may suspend the requirements for a permit and siting when an area has been declared a disaster.

Burning Flood Waste (cont'd)

If Permit is Required

- Complete an Open Burning Permit Application Form found at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/air/permits/openburn/index.html>
- FAX completed form to (217) 524-5023.
- Units of local government can apply for multiple burn locations under a single permit application; and are encouraged to do so.
- Applicants other than units of government can also apply for multiple burn locations under a single permit application if the applicant provides proof along with the application that the proposed activities have been coordinated with the unit of local government and the local Fire Protection District.
- The Illinois EPA typically issues these permits within 1 - 2 days after receipt of the application; however, upon request the Illinois EPA can expedite permits in the event of an emergency.
- These permits are typically issued for a short period (e.g., covering 30 to 90 days) after which time they expire.

General Conditions for the Open Burning of Disaster Debris

- Coordinate the burn with the local Fire Protection District.
- Conduct the burn when the wind is blowing away from roadways, railroad tracks, airfields, and populated areas.
- Provide on-site supervision of the burn location.
- Burning occur only from approximately 9 am to 6 pm to get the best natural smoke dispersion conditions.

Asbestos containing materials and tires – burning not allowed under any circumstances!!!

Call Floyd McKinney at (217) 782-2113 for additional information or to request an expedited permit in the event of an emergency.

In the event that Floyd McKinney is not available, a secondary contact in the event of an emergency is Charlie Zeal at (217) 782-2113.

Drinking Water Concerns After the Flood

Be sure to listen to special announcements about local boil orders that may be in effect. If a local advisory is issued, the safest route is to drink bottled water or juices. If you must use water during boil order conditions, it must be boiled vigorously for at least five minutes.

Water used to make ice, brush teeth, or wash dishes also must be boiled. Private water wells should be pumped out, allowed to recharge naturally, disinfected with bleach, and tested before drinking or cooking.

Your local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health regional office will provide you with information and assistance in testing your well. Should special testing of water supplies for pesticides or other contaminants be necessary, immediate action will be taken by the Illinois EPA.