



Township of Pequannock

CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNING DEPARTMENTS

Township Code Official:
Robert Grant
Tel: (973) 835-5700 x181
Fax: (973) 835-9396
Email: rgrant@peqtwp.org
Address:
99 Alexander Avenue
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

AFTER THE FLOOD

If your property is severely flooded and you anticipate making a claim on your flood insurance policy, you should begin recording the damage to your home by taking photos or videos and by making a list of damage to your home and contents. Thorough documentation of loss is also required by the Internal Revenue Service if a casualty deduction is taken.

Before entering a flood-damaged building, be sure that it is structurally sound and not about to collapse. Examine foundations and basement walls for signs of undermining. If necessary, the Township's Construction Code Official (Building Inspector) may be called for an evaluation.

Never enter a flooded basement; wait until the water drains out or is pumped out. Do not pump out basements until flood water has receded as early pumping while the ground water elevation is high could result in structural damage or in additional water entering the basement. The Fire Department does not pump out basements. The Office of Emergency Management can provide a list of contractors who can perform pump outs.

Do not smoke, use open flame or turn on electrical switches until you are sure that it is safe to do so. Make sure the gas is turned off at the meter or tank and let the house air for several minutes to remove escaped gas and foul odors. Check this by smell and do not use matches or candles. If any doubt exists about gas, electric service or heating equipment, leave the house and call the appropriate utility and/or your local contractor.

Gas – Public Service	(800) 436-7734
Electric- Jersey Central	(888) 544-4877 Outages (800) 662-3115 General Customer Service
Telephone Lines	Call your provider

Do not reenter the house until you are told it is safe.

Do not turn on the electrical system until it has been dried and checked. You can avoid major repair damage to wet electrical appliances and motors by waiting.

Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas.

Open all doors and windows to dry out the house as soon as weather conditions permit. Flooding may have swollen doors tight or doors may be blocked by debris on the inside. When entrance must be forced, try entering by window or other opening. After you are inside, lift the door pins from the hinges with a chisel and hammer, unlock the door and carefully push it in outside to avoid further damage. To open swollen windows, remove the small strip holding the lower sash and then remove the lower window by pushing from the outside. Remember do not rush to move in. Do not live in the house until it has been cleaned, disinfected and allowed to dry.

Residents using city water can be assured that it is safe unless notified otherwise. Residents using shallow wells or well points as their source of water must boil all drinking or cooking water for fifteen minutes. When flood waters recede, the well must be chlorinated; call the Health Department for instructions (973-835-5700).

Septic systems should not be used in areas of flooding. Facilities are available at the emergency shelter or at the Municipal Building, service stations, and other public and church facilities not in the flood area.

(OVER)

Elderly residents and those with potential disabling health conditions are cautioned not to overexert themselves in the cleanup process. This has been cited as a common cause of injury, heart attack and stroke among those not used to such exertion. The Office of Emergency Management can attempt to match volunteers with the elderly or disabled residents who need assistance.

The home and yard must be thoroughly disinfected and sanitized after the flood waters recede. For lawns, yard areas, sidewalks and driveways, chlorinated lime will be available at the Public Works Garage on Alexander Avenue. This should be spread on formerly flooded surfaces. Care should be taken to avoid getting lime in open cuts, and it should be kept away from eyes and mouth and out of children's and pet's reach.

Residents should caution their children not to swim or play in flood water and instruct them to keep their hands clean and away from their mouths.

Foods suspected as being contaminated should be destroyed, as should all food items which have lost their labels. Foods in hermetically sealed containers may be salvaged if they are disinfected by immersion in bleach or chlorine solution per instructions on the container for at least five minutes. Bottled beverages with crimped caps should be destroyed. Frozen foods (uncontaminated) that have been defrosted should not be refrozen, but should be cooked immediately or destroyed. If there is any evidence that silt and/or flood water has penetrated the refrigerator or freezer, do not use any food that was inside. Drugs and cosmetics should be evaluated in the same manner as food.

If an automobile was not removed prior to the flood and was substantially submerged, the following actions should be taken immediately: (a) Do not try to start or operate the vehicle; (b) Move the car by towing with drive wheels off the car so as to avoid operating any mechanical parts of the car; (c) Contact a qualified mechanic to replace all fluids, clean and lubricate essential parts; (d) Body openings should be flushed with cold water; (e) The interior should be dried out as rapidly as possible; (f) Wash off heavy sediment with detergent; (g) Clean trunk and spare tire well.

After major floods which enter the living levels of homes, special garbage and debris pickup will be made in flooded areas. Please place all household garbage in tight fitting containers and keep separated from discarded furniture, bedding, rugs and other household effects. Damaged construction items from your home including sheetrock and insulation may also be put out for pickup.

The Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation will clean mud and vegetation debris from streets in affected areas as soon as the material has dried sufficiently to allow it to be removed.

Social Services and Counseling Services are available from the following:

Morris County Department of Human Services	973-285-6852
NewBridge Services	973-839-2520