

# When Flooding Occurs – Keep Food Safe

Follow these steps to keep your **FOOD SAFE** during — and after — flood conditions.

1. **Do not eat** any food that may have come into contact with flood water.
2. Throw away perishable foods (including meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers) that have been above 40°F for 2 hours or more. Thawed food that contains ice crystals or is 40°F or below can be refrozen or cooked.
3. **Discard any food** that is **not in a waterproof container** if there is *any* chance that it has come into contact with flood water.

This includes the following:

- Food containers that are not waterproof include those with screw-caps, snap lids, pull tops, and crimped caps.
  - Cardboard juice/milk/baby formula boxes and home canned foods if they have come in contact with flood water, because they cannot be effectively cleaned and sanitized.
4. Inspect canned foods and **discard any food in damaged cans**. Throw away canned foods that are bulging, opened, or damaged.
    - If cans have come in contact with floodwater or storm water, remove the labels, wash the cans, and soak them in a solution of consisting of 1 tablespoon of unscented liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of drinking water (or the cleanest, clearest water available) for 15 minutes.
    - Any concentrated baby formula in reconditioned, all-metal containers must be diluted with clean, drinking water.
  5. Thoroughly wash metal pans, ceramic dishes, and utensils (including can openers) with soap and water, using hot water if available. Rinse, and then sanitize them by boiling in clean water or soaking them for 15 minutes in a solution of 1 tablespoon of unscented, liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of drinking water (or the cleanest, clearest water available).
  6. Thoroughly wash countertops with soap and water, using hot water if available. Rinse, and then sanitize by applying a solution of 1 tablespoon of unscented, liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of drinking water (or the cleanest, clearest water available). Allow to air dry.



**Metro Public Health Dept**  
Nashville / Davidson County

**For more information  
call 615-340-7775**