

You should assume anything touched by sewage is contaminated and may have to be discarded.

You should clean and disinfect everything sewage has touched if it is to be saved.

List of items which should almost always be discarded

- Food
- Stuffed animals
- Toys
- Medicines and medical supplies
- Mattresses and pillows
- Upholstered furniture
- Cardboard
- Cosmetics

Other items which should be considered for disposal

- Books
- Paper products
- Large carpets
- Carpet padding

Call the Department of General Service at 434-2489

if you plan on moving large quantities of materials to the curb for pickup.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Prior to undertaking the cleanup of any contaminated area, consider whether you or anybody who may assist you may have immune systems which are in some way compromised. Individuals may also be more susceptible to illness due to age, medication, or underlying health condition. Young children should not be allowed to assist.

Disinfectants are chemicals that can reduce high numbers of pathogens to levels below those expected to cause disease. Cleaning removes accumulated solids and debris. Cleaning is necessary before disinfection can be effectively undertaken. To prepare surfaces for disinfection, wash surfaces first with warm soapy water and rinse surface thoroughly.

Disinfection is important to ensure the elimination of all pathogens which were contained in the sewage or may have grown or developed in the period since contamination.

Many household products are capable of disinfecting surfaces and should be used in strict accordance with manufacturer's directions. Read labels carefully before starting disinfection. The disinfectant or a solution containing the disinfectant should be applied to all surfaces of any item or surface affected. Always allow for sufficient time of contact. Allow surface to dry.

A solution of household bleach (this is normally 6.0% Sodium Hypochlorite) is a very effective disinfection agent. Add and mix one half a cup of household bleach to one gallon of water. You may apply with mops, sponges or with a spray bottle.

Make sure that buckets or spray bottles are clean since household bleach can cause dangerous reactions with many cleaners.



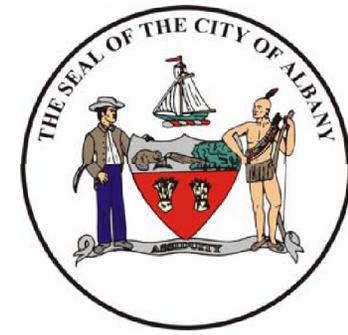
DO NOT USE BLEACH UNDILUTED AS IT CAN CAUSE SEVERE SKIN OR RESPIRATORY DAMAGE.

Cleanup of External Areas

The majority of the pathogens from sewage flooding onto lawns, sidewalks, driveways and other paved areas will be inactivated within several days from exposure to sunlight (UV Radiation). A disinfectant can be used on sidewalks, driveways or other paved areas.

Contamination on lawns or in planting beds should be left to degrade naturally. Bacterial contamination on turf is normally reduced to acceptable levels within 2 weeks, but sometimes this can extend to 3 weeks. The more porous soils maintain contamination longer. During this period, children and pets should be kept off areas where contamination has occurred.

If you hire a professional company to perform cleanup and disinfection, be sure to ask for and check references.



GERALD D. JENNINGS, MAYOR

ALBANY WATER BOARD

ANTHONY J. FERRARA, CHAIR

DEPARTMENT OF WATER

AND WATER SUPPLY

ROBERT F. CROSS, COMMISSIONER

Managing Potential Health Hazards Caused by Sewage Backups

This document has been prepared by the City of Albany Department of Water and Water Supply, on behalf of the Albany Water Board, and is intended to provide guidance to the general public relative to managing pathogen risks from direct contact with combined sewage backups either on the street or in the basement of dwellings.

This document *is not* intended to directly address public safety issues (such as risks from accidental electrocution from flooded basements or downed power lines). Additional information on the public safety hazards associated with flooding can be found at the website of the

Federal Emergency Management Agency (<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/index.shtml>) or at the website of the American Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.org>).