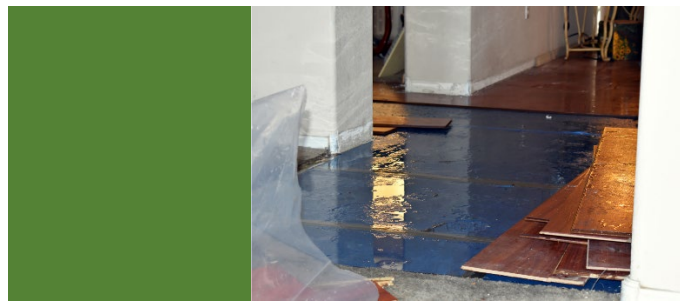




# Wisconsin Food Code Fact Sheet



## RESPONSE TO A FLOOD

Flood water can contain pathogens that could become a source of contamination on equipment, environmental surfaces, employee and/or customer shoes and clothing, and cleaning tools. Limiting contamination from flood water requires control of affected areas and preventing contact of flood water with equipment, people, food, and packaging.

*It is recommended that the license holder note the date and time of the event. The Person in Charge should assess the situation and implement emergency procedures. Immediately discontinue operation if a safe operation cannot be maintained or if food safety cannot be assured using an alternative procedure. If there is a significant threat or danger to health, then an Imminent Health Hazard may exist and the license holder should immediately discontinue operations and notify the regulatory authority.*

### Public Health Considerations

During a flood, one of the primary concerns is to protect the health of employees and customers.

Always consider if there is an imminent health hazard that would not permit a safe operation. Could employees and/or customers be exposed to flood water or safety hazards such as submerged objects or electrical hazards?

### Planning Ahead

Determine what areas, systems, equipment, food, and packaging may be impacted by a flood.

Consider the following:

- Site access and safety. Submerged electrical equipment may create an electrocution hazard.
- Food and packaging materials that come in contact with flood water.
- Areas where equipment and supplies could potentially come in contact with flood water.
- Procedures such as handwashing, warewashing, cleaning, and sanitizing that may be disrupted.

### Salvaged Goods – Discarding After a Flood

Discard the following foods if water has covered, splashed, dripped, or seeped into the package:

- All opened containers and packages
- Alcoholic beverages
- Exposed foods, bulk foods, fresh produce, meat, poultry, fish, and eggs
- Any food packaged in paper, plastic, cloth, or fiber
- Cardboard boxes, even if contents seem dry, such as cereal, pasta, and rice
- Food in glass jars, including unopened jars
- Foods, liquids, and beverages in crown-capped bottles or containers with pull-tabs, corks, or screw caps



- Foods with cardboard seals, such as mayonnaise and salad dressings
- Canned food that is damaged, dented, leaking, bulging, rusted, or that have missing labels

## Clean Up Following a Flood

- Remove any standing water.
- Remove wet materials. Dispose of those that cannot be effectively cleaned and sanitized.
- Discard any food in contact with flood water.
- Discard any single-use item in contact with flood water.
- All damaged food equipment must be removed and disposed of.
- Floors, walls, carpets, and furnishings beyond repair must be disposed of.
- Remove all wet materials. Dispose of those that cannot be effectively cleaned and sanitized.
- Clean and sanitize any utensils and equipment in the affected area.
- Launder any linens and uniforms that were in contact with flood water separately from other linens, using bleach and a mechanical dryer.
- Affected floors, walls, and equipment surfaces must be cleaned with soap and water, rinsed, and sanitized. Carpets will need to be removed or steam cleaned.
- Use a detergent solution to clean floors, equipment, or other affected areas followed by a clean water rinse.
- Sanitize the floor and any other affected areas by using a clear water sanitizer solution (8 ounces of bleach per 5 gallons of water = 500 parts per million chlorine solution).
- Air dry the affected area.

## Documentation of Incident/Expense

Make sure a designated person records and documents all incidents/expenses incurred as a result of the flood, including photo and video records, if possible.

## Additional Information:

[DATCP Food Code Fact Sheets](#)

[Emergency Action Plan for Retail Food Establishments | Conference for Food Protection](#)

[AFDO Food Emergency Regulator Pocket Guide](#)



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