

## Sewage systems and flooding

Flooding of a private sewage system can be a hazardous situation for homeowners. There are things you can do before and during a flood to mitigate this risk.

### Before flooding

- Ensure all septic tanks are at least half full of liquid. Avoid pumping your tanks in the high-water season; empty tanks are buoyant and may “pop” out of the ground during flooding.
- Plug floor drains, if necessary, to keep sewage from backing up into the basement. Keep in mind that floodwaters may still enter the basement through cracks and seams.

### During flooding

- Discontinue use of your private sewage system. If the soil is saturated and flooded, the wastewater will not be treated and will become a source of pollution.
- Shut off power to a sewage lift pump if you have one in the house or in a pump chamber (mound, in-ground pressure, at-grade systems).
- Prevent silt from entering septic systems that have pump chambers. When the pump chambers are flooded, silt may settle in the chambers and will clog the drain field, if it is not removed.
- Remember that a well may become contaminated during a flood. Do not drink the water. Drink bottled water until you have tested your drinking water
- Do not bathe or swim in floodwater. It may contain harmful organisms.

Environmental Health Services  
Government of Yukon

Phone: 867-667-3227  
Email: [environmental.health@yukon.ca](mailto:environmental.health@yukon.ca)



During an emergency: Emergency Support Services 24/7 at 867-332-7367