

AFTER THE DISASTER RECOVERY TIPS



DAMAGE REPORTING HOTLINE: 360-740-2600



Assume your wells and septic systems have been compromised

Assume your water is contaminated. Do not drink tap water or use it for cooking, brushing teeth or washing dishes until authorities say it's safe or you've treated it.

- **Boil:** Bring water to a rolling boil for at least one minute.
- **Bleach:** Use unscented household bleach (5-9%). Add 8 drops (or 1/8 tsp) per gallon of clear water (16 drops if cloudy), let stand 30-60 mins; it should smell slightly of chlorine.
- **Bottled water:** Use bottled water as a safe alternative.

Assume your septic system has been compromised too. Limit water use and avoid the drainfield until the waters recede and the soil dries. Check for sewage backup and damage like sunken ground or odors, and have a professional inspect the system, pump out debris, secure covers and check electricals before resuming normal use.

Wash hands frequently and avoid contact with contaminated items to prevent illness and injury from unseen hazards like sharp objects, chemicals, or bacteria. If you must clean up, wear protective gear and dry/disinfect everything quickly to stop mold growth.

ONE CLICK

You'll find a collection of resources on DEM's web site at lewiscountywa.gov/departments/emergency-management

Document damages now before you begin cleanup and repairs

First, call the county's damage reporting hotline at **360-740-2600** and leave your information – first and last name, address and phone number (staff will return your call within two business days). Then take lots of clear photos and videos (wide shots and close-ups) before cleanup, create a detailed inventory of damaged items (including serial numbers), save every receipt, note the water's height/source and keep written logs of everything. If possible, store your damaged items to support your insurance claim.

Contact county for a voucher to dispose of flood debris at no charge

You can dispose of flood-damaged debris at no charge with our flood disposal voucher. Call **360-740-2600** and leave your name (and the name of your business if applicable), the address where the flood damage occurred and your phone number. Debris will be accepted at our temporary in Packwood as well as the Centralia and Morton transfer stations.

- **Temporary site at the Old Hampton Mill:** 12832 US Highway 12, Packwood
Hours: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday (hours for week of Dec. 15 TBD)
- **Lewis County Central Transfer Station:** 1411 S. Tower Ave., Centralia
Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Monday to Saturday
- **East Lewis County Transfer Station:** 6745 US Highway 12, Morton
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday

Secure any necessary building permits

Check with Community Development at 360-740-2696 before you start repairs. A building permit is required for most repairs to a structure, including removing, altering or replacing the following: roofs, walls, siding, wallboard, plaster, insulation, paneling, cabinets, flooring, electrical system, plumbing and heating or air conditioning units.

You can do the following without a permit: Remove and dispose of damaged contents, carpeting, drywall, wallboard, insulation, etc.; remove debris, scrub or clean floors, walls and ductwork; cover holes in roofs, walls and windows to prevent weather from inflicting further damage; remove sagging ceilings; shore up broken foundations; and dry the inside of your home.