



OPERATION OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS DURING/AFTER A FLOOD

During Flood

- If flood water is covering your septic tank, septic bed or absorption field; do not use your system. This may result in failure of your septic system. It also may result in sewage backing up into your residence.
- If sewage has backed up into the building, clean the area and disinfect the floor. Use a chlorine solution of a half cup of chlorine bleach to each gallon of water to disinfect the area thoroughly.
- Using system while soil is saturated and flooded may also result in further contamination of your property or water sources near-by.

After Flood

- Once waters begin to recede and your system is no longer submerged, please continue to limit system use as the soil will likely still be saturated for a long period of time. Limit general household water use as well, as this all goes through your system. Your system will need time to drain away saturated soils and restore itself to regular operating levels.
- The water level under the drain field and bed must be below the water level around the house before normal system operation can resume.
- Limit foot traffic and activity on top of drain field. Soggy soil is easily compacted and can affect the effectiveness of your drain field.
- Do not drink well water until it is tested. Contact the Renfrew County Health Unit for information regarding water testing procedures and drop off locations.
- Do not pump your septic tank immediately after a flood. The resulting hydrostatic pressure of saturated soils may cause your tank to collapse in on itself.

Contact Info

**Township of Killaloe, Hagarty &
Richards**

613-757-2300

Renfrew County Health Unit

613-735-8654

Ministry of Environment

416-325-4000