

SAFETY TIPS

Returning to your home or business after a flood

Make sure that all switches or branch circuit breakers, including those controlling large electrical appliances like ranges, washers/dryers, heating or air conditioning systems, pumps and motors, are turned off before restoring power to the electrical system.

Before a Flood

- If flood waters rise and there is a chance that water may enter your house or building, shut off your main power switch.
- If possible, move electrical appliances and other belongings to floors above ground level.

Safety Tips for Cleaning Up in Damp or Wet Locations

- Electricity and water do not mix. To reduce the safety hazards associated with operating electrical equipment in damp or wet locations, use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electric shock injuries.
- Portable GFCIs can protect you from shock hazards when operating wet / dry vacuum cleaners or other clean-up equipment.
- Never remove or bypass the ground pin on a three-pronged plug or use a non grounded outlet.
- Remember to disinfect all flooded surfaces to kill the bacteria carried by the flood waters. If you can, wear gloves and boots to prevent direct contact with flooded areas. Don't forget to disinfect the insides of flooded appliances like your washer and dryer.

Reconditioning Flooded Electrical Equipment and Appliances

- Do not plug in or attempt to use electrical appliances that have been wet until they are serviced or checked by an electrician or service agency. Most flood damage to electrical appliances will be from wet motor windings, wet insulation, rusting of metal parts and silt or dirt in switches, contacts and other moving parts. Contact the manufacturer or dealer you purchased the appliance from for the nearest service location.
- Some electrical equipment that has been subjected to flooding may require replacement rather than reconditioning. Please see
 - "Evaluating Water-Damaged Electrical Equipment" published by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA): <https://www.nema.org/standards/view/evaluating-water-damaged-electrical-equipment>
 - STANDATA bulletin: 2024 Canadian Electrical Code - <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/1d00b178-0415-40da-a6ab-f53355be316d/resource/3a292798-708f-461d-9357-220870a0eb3f/download/ma-standata-bulletin-24-ecb-002-2025-04.pdf>