

Frequently Asked Questions – After St. Regis River Flood

If you have been cleared to return to your home, you still need to take care to keep you and your family safe. Below are important health and safety answers to concerns raised by community members.



What can be cleaned and what should be thrown away?

The St. Regis flood waters can contain manure, herbicides and pesticides from farms, fluids from septic tanks and leach fields, and leaked chemicals and fuel oil. Always use rubber boots, gloves and a mask for cleaning.

Residents whose households were impacted by high water may dispose of debris for FREE at the Tribe's Transfer Station located at 179 State Route 43, Fort Covington, New York 12937. Hours of operation are Monday thru Saturday, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. To contact them directly, please call (518) 358-4632.

Be sure to catalog small items and take photos of large items being disposed of. This will be helpful calculating damages for any future claims.

All porous items that have been in contact with flood waters should be thrown away. This includes cloth and leather furniture, MDF wood furniture, carpets, clothing, toys, twist top food/drink containers.

Items that can be washed include hardwood furniture and smooth plastic items. They should be cleaned with detergent and disinfected with a small amount of bleach in water. Canned goods will need the label removed and the can washed.

Is my water still safe to drink and wash with?

If there are no broken pipes leading to your home and you are on the Tribe's waterline, the water is safe to drink and wash with. If your pressure is very low or the water is discolored, do not use and contact Shawn Martin at Planning & Infrastructure (518) 358-4205 for testing.

What do I do if I have an older home and suspect there may be asbestos or lead paint?

If you need to remove damaged plaster, stop until an assessment can be conducted. Contact Emergency Planning at (518) 358-2272.

Did removing the Hogansburg dam make this year's flooding worse?

The Hogansburg Dam was NOT designed as an ice control or flood control dam. Removal of the dam did not alter the primary conditions that explain why jams occur. Ice jams below Hogansburg form because of low flow conditions from the St. Lawrence river level and blockage by a thick ice sheet on the lower river. Flooding experienced over winter in 2018 is the result of two ice jams events. The first massive ice jam occurred in January 2018 during a freshet and then immediately froze in place. Cold temperatures returned and miles of river ice upstream grew back. A second freshet in February 2018 formed another ice jam backed up by the first one. When ice jam events exceed the river capacity between the banks flooding is the result. These have happened in the past and will happen again. We just cannot predict when. It is important that we plan for resilient river communities and build strategically so that the next time an event like this happens we lessen the damages.

I would like to hire a contractor to clean and restore everything for me?

Pro-Tech Restoration of Northern New York – Plattsburgh – (518) 561-1610

Robla's Carpet Care – Waddington – (315) 276-9131

No Cornwall contractors are licensed in New York State.

I have mold starting to grow on my walls. Can I clean it?

Do not use bleach to clean mold. Use a detergent and wear a mask and gloves. Once the walls are clean be sure to dry it out completely so that the mold does not come back and if it does come back just clean with soapy water and re-dry. Heating and A/C ductwork should also be cleaned by a professional especially if water infiltrated into the duct work. Water from floods carries pollutants from septic systems, manure from farmlands as well as other toxics like pesticides and herbicides.

Is there assistance to help me pay for repairs and damages?

Please track all costs and expenditures in case of a future claim through FEMA or New York State. We cannot guarantee that any reimbursements would be approved.

Save receipts for any money spent. Take photos and catalog damaged and discarded items.

My basement is no longer flooded but is still damp. How do I get it dried out?

Rentals of dehumidifiers and blowers are available from local companies, below:

Wright's Tool Sales, Rental and Service, LLC, 40 Maple St, Massena, New York 13662
(315) 705-2700

-carpet fans, trash pumps, large and small submersible pumps

Simplex Equipment Rental, 1717 Pitt Street Cornwall (Ontario) K6J 3V3

(613)938-8181

-Fans and dehumidifiers (2)

The Home Depot, 1825 Brookdale Ave, Cornwall ON K6J 5X7

1 613-930-4470

-Carpet blowers to rent, they have dehumidifiers for rent but are both currently out right now

Sunbelt Rentals, General Equipment & Tools Branch #7015

17305 Cornwall Centre Road Cornwall, ON K6K 1K5

(613) 933-0744

-6 Industrial dehumidifiers, large fans, carpet fans, blowers

What things are the home inspectors looking for at an assessment?

Home Assessment Team conduct air quality tests and inspections of home's structure, heating, electrical and sewage systems. The Team is comprised of members from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Compliance Department and Environment Division, along with representatives from the Franklin County Hazmat Team and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Who do I contact in an emergency?

- All Emergencies: 9-1-1
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Police (518) 358-9200
- Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department (518) 483-1211
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Emergency Planning (518) 358-2272

The Emergency Planning Office will continue to closely monitor the ongoing situation. Until the State of Emergency has been lifted, residents in the flood areas should remain alert, have an evacuation 'go-bag' ready, and monitor media for updates.

If you are evacuated again, please write your name and a contact number on a paper and tape to your door so responders can locate you.