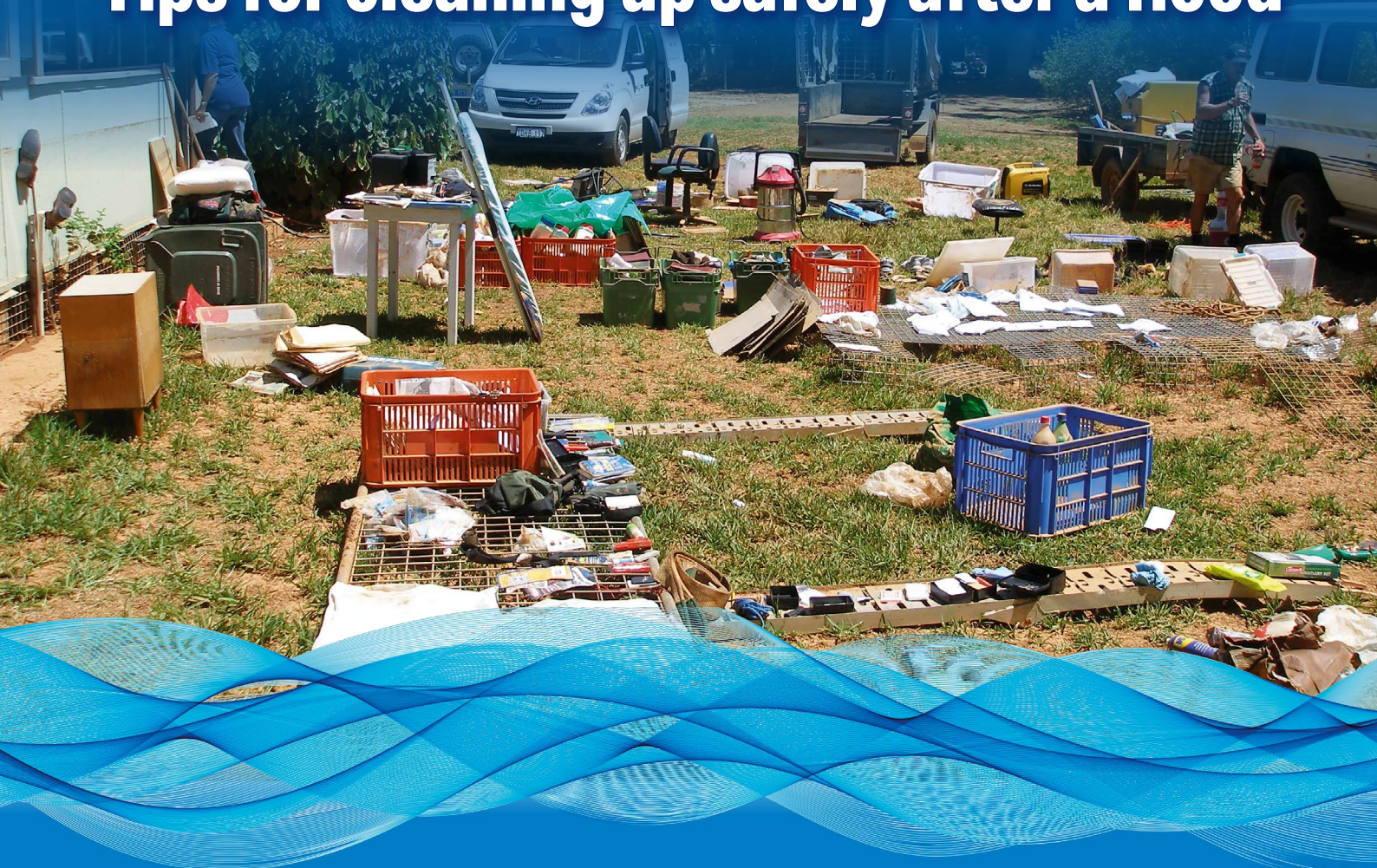




Tips for cleaning up safely after a flood



Keep children and pets away from your house until it is clean and safe

Electricity and gas

Electricity and gas supplies may be damaged.

To report an electrical fault or issue, call Horizon Power on 13 23 51.

Do not switch on electricity or gas until a licensed electrician or gas fitter has checked it.

If you smell gas in the home, turn off all appliances, pilot lights and supply at the gas meter, open all windows, and call a licensed gas fitter.

Do not use matches or lighters in case there has been a gas or fuel leak.

Insurance

Check if your house and contents insurer needs you to list flood damage or take photos before and after you clean-up.

Wear personal protection

Everyone, including children, must wear thick rubber gloves, a facemask, rubber or steel cap boots or closed shoes in the clean up area.

Wear goggles to scrub, hose or pressure wash.

Wash hands

Wash hands often with soap and clean water or use sanitiser after cleaning up, before and after going to the toilet, and before touching food (eating or making food), drinking or smoking. Do not touch your face with dirty hands.

Cover open cuts and wounds with waterproof bandages. Keep the dressing clean and dry. Seek medical attention if required.

Asbestos

Asbestos fibres can make you sick and may lead to cancer.

Asbestos should be removed by a licensed removalist.

If you need to clean up small pieces of asbestos, wear a P2 or N95 face mask, rubber gloves, boots, and disposable overalls or old clothes you can throw away after use.

Never use power tools or a pressure cleaner on asbestos.

Do not put asbestos in the rubbish bin.

See more information about how to wrap [asbestos](#) in heavy duty plastic on HealthyWA.

Ask your local government about how and where to dispose of asbestos. It is illegal to get rid of asbestos outside designated, approved locations.

Food and medicine

Throw away food and medicine that has been touched by floodwater or spoiled in a fridge or freezer without power. Wrap it in newspaper and put it in sealed bags for collection. Do not throw it away in the environment as it may attract animals and insects.

Poisons, chemicals and pesticides

Floodwater can bury, move, or damage dangerous pesticides, chemicals and gas cylinders. Follow the manufacturer's instructions before touching these products.

Wear protective clothing, protective eye wear, heavy duty gloves, a respiratory mask and enclosed footwear when cleaning up dangerous goods.

Snakes, rats, spiders, flies and crocodiles

Snakes, rats, and other wildlife may shelter in houses and buildings after a flood. Tell your children what to do if they see dangerous wildlife.

Watch where you put your hands and feet.

Know first aid and get medical treatment immediately if you are bitten.

Clean up food and garbage and wash dishes after use to prevent flies breeding. Use rat traps or baits.



Dead animals

Pets, wildlife, and livestock can die in a flood. Ask the local government what to do with dead animals on your property.

On pastoral stations, bury dead animals to at least 90cm to 120cm deep to prevent odours and fly breeding and the carcass being dug up by scavengers and protect live animals from disease.

Swimming pools

Swimming pools may be contaminated by floodwater or contain debris or animals.

Contaminated swimming pools can be a breeding place for mosquitoes and make people who swim in them sick.

A contaminated pool should be emptied or treated with chlorine.

Before emptying a pool, check it is safe to empty (that it will not cause the pool to crack and collapse) and that the discharged water will not cause further overflows in drainage systems.

Mould and dampness

Mould and dampness can make you sick.

Dry the area and scrub mould off hard surfaces using soapy water. Clean away all mould.

Wear rubber gloves, a face mask and safety goggles.

Rubbish

Contact your local government to find out how waste collection is being managed and where you can take rubbish.

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