

ECHO Phone

Emergency, Community and Health Outreach



Final
Feb. 28, 2011

Flooding- Basic Food Safety

[1]
Food safety is very important after a flood. Food may not be safe to eat if it has been in contact with flood water. It could make you sick. Do not eat or drink items packed in plastic, paper or similar containers if it may have been in contact with flood water. Food or drinks in containers with screw-caps and snap lids – and even home canned foods – also may not be safe. Throw out any of these items if they have been in contact with flood water.

[2]
If the power to your refrigerator goes out, keep the doors closed as much as possible. That will help keep everything cold. If you keep the doors closed, food in the refrigerator will usually stay cold enough to be safe for about 4 hours. Food in a full freezer will usually stay cold enough for about 2 days. Food in a half-full freezer will usually stay cold enough for about a day.

[3]
When the power comes back on, throw out frozen food if it has been thawed for two hours or more. Throw out any food that has been above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for four hours or more.

[4]
To hear this information again, press #1. To return to the previous choices, press #2.