

Possible illnesses that may result from contact with sewage overflow:

- Gastroenteritis (diarrhoea or vomiting)
- Giardiasis (severe stomach cramps)
- Hepatitis (liver infections)
- Infection of the skin and eyes.

IMPORTANT!

Please turn off the power supply if there is a possibility of electrical wires coming into contact with standing water.

What is sewage?

Sewage is everything that goes down the kitchen, laundry and bathroom sink and what you flush down the toilet.

Sewage contains bacteria, viruses and other germs that could make people sick.

IMPORTANT!

If you get sick after being exposed to sewage contact your doctor immediately.



Managing health risks from domestic sewage overflows

August 2015

REMEMBER!

Never touch raw sewage with your bare hands. Wear rubber gloves when handling anything contaminated with sewage. Wash hands immediately afterwards.



In the event that an overflow does occur, please follow the advice provided and contact Logan City Council.

Phone 3412 3412

Visit www.logan.qld.gov.au/overflows

Email council@logan.qld.gov.au

This brochure provides information to assist residents who experience domestic sewage overflow to understand public health risks and reduce the chance of getting sick.

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITIES,
BUSINESSES AND PRIDE



BUILDING OUR COMMUNITIES,
BUSINESSES AND PRIDE



What should I do if there is a sewage overflow?

The nature and severity of sewage overflow will vary, however all overflows need to be cleaned up asap. This may reduce the impact of negative health effects.



Do not flush toilets until you have been told that the problem has been fixed.

Always wear protective gear if in contact with the sewage e.g. goggles, gloves, gum boots etc.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and do not mix cleaning chemicals.

A professional cleaning company may be required to undertake clean-up, depending on the extent.

Always wash hands especially after bathroom use, before eating and immediately after any contact with sewage or contaminated objects or surfaces.

Never touch raw sewage with your bare hands.

Protect all wounds and cuts and immediately wash and disinfect any wound or cut that comes into contact with sewage.

Keep children and pets away from the sewage.



What should I do once the sewage is cleaned up?

Clean, disinfect and dry all hard surfaces thoroughly.

Absorbent household items which have been contaminated should generally be thrown away. These include, but are not limited to, carpets, rugs, cardboard, stuffed toys, mattresses and pillows, medicines and food items.



Make a list of items to be thrown away and if possible take photographs for insurance purposes.

In the event there is no electricity, keep cold and frozen food cold. If food is still cold to touch or less than 5 degrees Celsius, it is safe to use.



Protect temperatures of your fridge/freezer by keeping doors closed.

If frozen food is still solid to touch it is safe to refreeze.

Change out of dirty clothes and clean them separately.

Disinfect all equipment that may have come into contact with sewage – bleach solutions are the most effective disinfectants.