

KNOW THE FACTS!

SEWER BACKUPS

For more information, call the Water Quality Division at 513.946.7862 or visit www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org.

Bacteria, fecal material, viruses, and other organisms associated with sewer water backups can cause disease. Use the following information to protect your health and prevent disease.

How do sewer backups occur?

- Flooding of sanitary sewers during heavy rain.
- Blockage in private sewer line (home, apartment).
- Blockage in public sanitary sewer line.
- Plumbing problems, such as gutters/downspouts or sump pumps connected to sanitary sewers.

How do I clean up after a sewer backup?

- Odors from sewage backups are unpleasant but not harmful. Removal and cleanup of sewer water is essential.
- Wash contaminated surfaces/objects with warm, soapy water and disinfect with a bleach/water solution, one cap of 5.25 percent chlorine bleach per one gallon water.
- Discard or properly wash and disinfect toys, clothing, and other contaminated objects.
- Wear rubber boots and gloves during removal/cleanup.

How do I prevent disease during sewer backups?

- Avoid skin contact with sewer water, especially cuts and sores. Keep them clean and covered.
- Do not allow children to play in areas contaminated by sewage backup.
- Do not eat/drink anything exposed to sewer water.
- Keep contaminated objects, water, and hands away from mucous membranes (mouth, eyes and nose).
- Wash hands frequently, especially after bathroom use, before eating, and immediately following contact with sewer water or contaminated objects/surfaces.
 - Read and follow label instructions on bleach.
 - Never mix cleaning products.
 - Do not use ammonia.



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

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