



Returning Home

- * Flood dangers do not end when the water recedes.
- * Listen to local radio or television and do not return home until an official source states it is safe. When you do return home, use extreme caution.
- * Before re-entering a building, check for structural damage that could cause the building to collapse.
- * Be alert for potential gas leaks, electrical shorts, and live wires. Signs to look for: unusual odors, hissing/bussing/popping or crackling sounds, scorch marks, flickering lights.
- * Use flashlights instead of lanterns or candles when entering a building that has a gas heater or gas stove.
- * Pump out flooded basements gradually (about one-third of the water per day) to avoid structural damage. Check out the video [Pumping Out a Flooded Basement](#) by the Washington Emergency Management Division to learn more.

Assessing Damage

- * Have a professional check your heating system, electrical panel, outlets, and appliances before using them.
- * Contact your local building department for damage assessments and to see if you need permits to make repairs.
- * Document your losses before you clean, remove, or replace anything. Photograph damage, take notes, and document estimated repair costs.
- * Contact your insurance agent for flood loss claims.
- * Make a permanent mark on your residence or property to show the maximum height reached by flood waters.
- * Check all food and drink items that may be contaminated by flood water. See www.foodsafety.gov for guidance on how to evaluate the safety of your food after a flood.
- * Financial assistance may be available following a federal disaster declaration. Call the Land Development Office and monitor social media, radio or television for information on disaster assistance.

Helpful Contacts

- * **Flood Debris Removal**
Report Road/Bridge Damage
P: [\(423\) 643-6311](tel:4236436311)
E: 311emails@chattanooga.gov
- * **Inspection of Flood Damaged Structures**
Flood Recovery Assistance Information
Hamilton County Emergency Services
P: [\(423\) 622-1911](tel:4236221911)
E: info_911@hc911.org
- * **Emergency Services**
P: [911](tel:911)
- * **Non-Emergency Services**
P: [\(423\) 698-2525](tel:4236982525)

By sharing your flood damage through the assessment accessible below, you help your community recover - and you may be able to get funding to help with repairs.



Scan the QR code above to access the flood damage assessment!



[Ready.gov/Flood](https://www.ready.gov/flood)

Helpful Links with QR Codes

[The ABC's of Returning to Flooded Buildings](#)

[FEMA Floodsmart](#)

