

# Retail Food Establishments: Recovering from a Flood

Regulation 61–25: Retail Food Establishments



[www.scdhec.gov/food](http://www.scdhec.gov/food)

If your Retail Food Establishment (RFE) has been impacted by a flooding event, please adhere to the following guidance when it is safe for you to do so and prior to serving retail food:

If there is an imminent health hazard or safe operation cannot be maintained, your RFE must discontinue operation.

## 1) Consult DHEC for assistance

Contact [your local DHEC office](#) if you need assistance.

## 2) Salvage

Identify what food, packaging materials, equipment, surfaces, and supplies are salvageable. Consult the “Flood: Food Salvage Assessment” section of the [Emergency Action Plan \(EAP\)](#). Keep in mind that any Time/Temperature Control for Safety (TCS) food that fell out of compliance with R. 61-25, Chapter 3, is non-salvageable.

## 3) Disposal

Properly dispose of the non-salvageable items as per the “Flood: Food Salvage Assessment” section of the [EAP](#).

- » Secure food to be discarded in a designated storage area away from food preparation and other storage as per R. 61-25, Chapter 6-404.11.
- » Your local DHEC office and/or insurance company may request that you document the type and amount of food being discarded/disposed of.

## 4) Assessment

Determine if a safe food environment and operation can be obtained and maintained.

- » Contact your local building and codes department and other appropriate agencies to determine if the building structure is safe and approved for occupancy.
- » If you are under a Boil Water Advisory or Notice, your RFE must follow the recommendations and requirements listed in [Water-Related Emergencies](#). Additional guidance is available in the “Contaminated Water Supply” section of the [EAP](#).
- » If you had an Interruption of Water Service, then your RFE must follow the requirements listed in [Water-Related Emergencies](#). Alternative water sources are allowed as described in R. 61-25, Chapter 5-104.1. Guidance is available in the “Contaminated Water Supply” section of the [EAP](#).

- » Your RFE’s drinking water system must be flushed and sampled after a water-related emergency as per R. 61-25, Chapter 5-101.12. In most cases, this will be completed by your water provider.
- » If you experienced a sewage backup into your RFE, see the “Sewage Backup” section of [EAP](#) for information and/or call [your local DHEC office](#).

## 5) Clean-Up

Commence cleaning of affected areas as described in the “Flood: General Cleaning Procedures” section of the [EAP](#).

- » Remove any standing water as soon as possible and prior to starting clean-up procedures. Standing water may be located beneath floors where refrigeration or electrical conduits are located; this water must be removed as part of the clean-up.
- » Clean and disinfect any utensils, equipment, and surfaces in the affected area.
- » Absorbent wall and insulation materials are especially susceptible to mold and should be removed and replaced as soon as possible.
- » If linens or uniforms are contaminated by flood water, they must be discarded or professionally laundered prior to use.
- » Corrective actions should be implemented as soon as possible after the flood waters recede to prevent mold and mildew growth.

## 6) Resuming Service

DHEC will be in the impacted areas providing support to RFEs. As soon as you are in compliance with applicable sections of R. 61-25, which may include operating under the provisions of Chapter 9-8, “Temporary Food Service Establishments,” or following the provisions [EAP](#), you may resume operations.

» Please see [Regulation 61-25](#), the [Emergency Action Plan](#), and the [Water-Related Emergencies](#) documents located on [www.scdhec.gov/food](http://www.scdhec.gov/food) or contact your [local DHEC office](#) for additional information.