

DISASTER RECOVERY

FACT SHEET

Bore Water

If you use bore water for domestic purposes and that bore has been inundated with floodwater, Council recommends you use an alternative source (eg bottled water or rainwater) or bring the water to a rolling boil (at least 5 minutes) before use.

If you have continued concerns about the quality of your bore water, please have your water tested by a suitably qualified laboratory. Water testing laboratories/companies can be found under Analysts or Environmental and/or Pollution Consultants in the Yellow Pages.

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WATER INFORMATION for Rural Properties

Onsite Water Disposal Systems

Onsite waste water disposal systems such as septic tanks require relatively dry soils to operate efficiently. If the soil in the absorption/disposal area is too wet the system will not work and sewage may overflow either outside or back inside your house.

Flooding of the chambers in the septic tank or primary/secondary treatment tanks can lift the floating crust of fats, grease and other materials that naturally form on top of the waste water. Once lifted the crust can block either the inlet or outlet pipes of the tank and possibly cause solids to transfer from the septic tank to the leach drain or disposal system.

In addition septic tanks, leach drains, pump pits and irrigation pipework can fill with silt and debris which will either reduce the capacity or effectiveness of the treatment system.

If your onsite waste water disposal system has been under flood water do not use any toilets, laundry, kitchen, bathroom or clean-up equipment connected to the onsite waste water disposal system until all parts of the waste water treatment and disposal system have been professionally inspected and repaired. Refer to the Yellow Pages for a suitable operator.

Only trained specialists are suitably equipped to clean or repair onsite waste disposal systems because tanks may contain dangerous gases and other harmful materials. Onsite waste water disposal systems should be pumped out by a licensed septic tank operator as

soon as possible after the flood. However, before this can be done it is important to ensure that the water level in the ground surrounding the tanks is as low as possible. It is possible for empty tanks to float out of the ground causing damage to underground pipework.



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Rainwater Tank Water Quality

Check rainwater tanks, particularly inground tanks. If they have been inundated with flood waters, the water may have been contaminated and should be discarded.

The rainwater tank should be appropriately disinfected using enough chlorine to give an initial chlorine dose of 5mg/L. The amounts required will depend on the amount of available chlorine you use.

Read the labels, however as a general rule use the following guides:

- Household bleach (4% concentration) – 125ml or 125g / 1000 litres
- Liquid swimming pool chlorine (12.5%) – 40ml or 40g / 1000 litres
- Granular swimming pool chlorine (70%) – 7ml or 7g / 1000 litres

After adding, allow to stand for at least one hour. You will need to calculate the amount of water in your tank to determine the appropriate amount of chlorine to put in.

WEBSITES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Local Disaster Coordination Centre (if activated)
1300 652 659

Rockhampton Regional Council
07 4932 9000 or 1300 22 55 77
www.rrc.qld.gov.au

Additional Disaster Recovery information
Council's website - www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/CouncilServices/Disaster-Management/Recover-from-a-disaster

State Emergency Services
132 500 or www.emergency.qld.gov.au/ses

Department Main Roads Traffic Information
131940.qld.gov.au/Road-Conditions.aspx

RACQ Road Conditions
www.racq.com.au/travel/Maps_and_Directions/road_conditions



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