



## Fact Sheet for Cleaning Diesel Fuel/Heating Oil Contamination From Households

The following information is for homeowners to assist in the cleaning of households affected by diesel fuel/heating oil contamination resulting from spring flooding events. This fact sheet contains possible methods to reduce or eliminate exposure to diesel fuel/heating oil contamination.

### Safety

The following recommendations are safety precautions for persons entering and cleaning properties impacted by diesel fuel/heating oil and are consistent with previous recommendations from the United States Environmental Protection Agency:

1. Diesel fuel/heating oil is a flammable liquid and vapor. Keep away from heat, sparks, flame, static electricity or other sources of ignition.
2. Do not smoke near any area that has been contaminated with diesel fuel/heating oil.
3. Protect your skin from contacting diesel fuel/heating oil.
  - a. Use diesel fuel/heating oil resistant gloves;
  - b. Keep eyes, arms and legs covered;
  - c. Wear coveralls or clothing that can be discarded; and
  - d. If you get diesel fuel/heating oil on skin, wash well with soap and water
4. Open doors and windows to ventilate the diesel fuel/heating oil-contaminated property.
5. Take care not to spread oil contamination to other places.
  - a. Wear boot covers or leave work boots at the diesel/oil-contaminated property;
  - b. Do not track diesel fuel/heating or oily sediments into your vehicle or ATV; and
  - c. Do not take items with oil to other locations that might contaminate others, with the exception of a disposal location.
6. Wash clothes worn in the diesel fuel/heating cleanup area separately from the family laundry.
7. Children and pets should not enter the diesel fuel/heating oil contaminated area.

### Cleanup

Homeowners should follow manufacturer's instructions for safe operation of pressure washers, heaters, and other equipment listed below. Care should be taken to avoid further spread of contamination during the cleaning and disposal process.

1. If your household has any standing diesel fuel/heating oil, contact the ADEC to remove the oil before attempting to clean.
2. Turn off electrical power to the house/structure, if not already off.
3. Ventilate any area that you plan to work in by opening all doors and windows.
4. Avoid prolonged contact with petroleum liquids/residue by wearing impervious clothing such as raingear with rubber boots and dishwashing gloves. Duct tape can be used to seal gaps. Remove any petroleum soaked clothing and soon as possible.
5. Remove any furniture or other removable items (blankets, sheets, towels, clothing, etc.) from the interior of the household that was dampened by flood waters or fuel.
6. Use plastic sheeting or large plastic bags to enclose items and furniture for disposal, so that other items do not get smeared.

7. Remove flooring, particularly carpeting and underlying cushioning or foam padding, down to the subflooring.
8. Remove wall covering (paneling and sheetrock) below the water line (high point of flooding), at least one foot above the high water mark to ensure that you have removed any contaminated insulation, sheetrock, or other wall covering. The wicking action during the flood can carry contamination further up the inside of the wall than might be visible from the outside of the wall.
9. Remove insulation within the cavity of the walls below the water line. Again, the wicking action of the flood water can carry contamination further up the insulation or wall board than might be visible from the outside of the wall.
10. As long as there is no free-phase liquid or the debris is not dripping diesel fuel/heating oil, it can be disposed in the landfill.
11. Use a pressure washer to wash all surfaces that may have had contact with flood water. You may use soapy water and a scrub brush if staining or odor persists.
12. If there is concern regarding potential mold growth, mix standard bleach with water (1 part bleach with 10 parts water) in a "Hudson" type sprayer and spray down all exposed wood. **DO NOT MIX AMMONIA WITH BLEACH.**
13. Allow interior space to dry thoroughly.
14. Check for remaining contamination by odor (diesel has a distinctive odor). If odor persists, space could be treated with repeated pressure washing or by heating the area using the existing home heating system or portable "salamander" type heaters. Remember to adequately ventilate the space by keeping doors and windows open and to follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation of any equipment.

## Products

1. Oil-resistant gloves, boots, and outerwear, such as rain slickers, are typically made from or coated with neoprene, nitrile, PVC, or similar materials. "Rubber" boots and rain slickers are commonly made from PVC. Dishwashing gloves are commonly coated with neoprene.
2. For additional protection to a well-ventilated work space, use an air purifying respirator and filter for **organic vapors**. These made be sold as paint spray respirators with **organic vapor filter cartridges**. Replace filters per manufacturer's instructions.
3. A citrus-type degreaser might be used on floors prior to detergent use.
4. Orange oil and pine oil cleaners can be mixed in a Hudson-type sprayer (pump pressure sprayer) or in some pressure washers. Soaps, such as Dawn or any "grease fighting" liquid detergent should be mixed with buckets of water and applied with scrub brushes to minimize suds. Rinse areas with clean water until no longer producing foam or surface is no longer slippery to the touch. **DO NOT** use orange strippers - these will lift paint / adhesives and are probably too caustic for general home use.
5. Types of Paints: Look for paint that carries a "single coat, stainblocking" label. These include Kilz, QuickHide (Wal-Mart brand of Kilz), Dutch Boy Extreme Adhesion, and others.
6. TSP (tri-sodium phosphate) is a no-suds alternative but it contains phosphate. It might be the commercial alternative to cleaners and soap. Some people may have an allergic reaction to TSP.

## Cleaning Supplies

The following items are recommended for cleaning: box cutter or razor blade knife, hammer, crow bar, pressure washer, generator to power pressure washer, soap (see list above), buckets, scrub brushes, salamander-type space heaters, fuel for generator and heater, lights for interior spaces if no electricity, extension cords, Kilz-type paints, paint brushes and rollers, large plastic bags and plastic sheeting, rubber gloves, rubber boots, rubber boot covers, safety goggles, coveralls, oil absorbent pads, clean sawdust or clean sand, and rain suits.