

Retail Food Establishments: Recovering from a Flood

Regulation 61–25: Retail Food Establishments



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 or contact your [local DHEC office](#) for additional information.