



Walk-In Cooler Cleaning and Restoration After a Flood

You must visit the Houston Permitting Center to receive approval and/or permits before beginning restoration work. In general, restoration for a walk-in cooler in a flooded food service facility needs to be reviewed on a case by case basis. The following guidelines may help you with your assessment:

- ☐ If the inside of the cooler has a quarry tile floor with six-inch sealed coving and the water did not flood over the coving, the interior surface can be cleaned and then disinfected.
- ☐ If the inside of the cooler has walls that sit directly on the floor and the caulking seal is intact, the cooler walls can be cleaned and disinfected.
- ☐ If the inside of the walk-in cooler was damaged by holes or cuts and the flood water rose above those holes or cuts, the entire panel will need to be replaced.
- ☐ In a free-standing walk-in cooler, the panels can be disassembled, cleaned and disinfected to remove the debris below the panel. This would apply when the cooler wall did not have a satisfactory seal at the wall and floor juncture.
- ☐ Walk-in coolers sitting directly on the floor with an aluminum interior floor should have the floor raised for power washing below the floor to remove debris.
- ☐ All floor drains should be cleaned, disinfected, and flushed.
- ☐ [EPA-registered disinfectants effective for Norovirus](#) should be used to disinfect surfaces contaminated by flood water or sewage.
 - ☐ Know what disinfectant you are using and follow the manufacturer's safety precautions (Safety Data Sheet or SDS) and instructions for use. Some disinfectant solutions can be toxic and can be harmful to the eyes, skin, and airways.
- ☐ Refer to [Disinfection After a Flood or Sewage Backup](#) for important safety precautions when using a disinfectant solution and for an example of disinfection using chlorine bleach.

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