



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Milwaukee County

HÉCTOR COLÓN • DIRECTOR

JAMES MATHY • HOUSING DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR

Housing Division Offers Emergency Flood Assistance

MILWAUKEE – With rain causing local rivers to inch closer to flood stages the Milwaukee County Housing Division wants to remind residents who have flooding issues that emergency repair loans are available. Common emergency repairs include sewer laterals, foundation repair, and hot water heater & furnace replacement. Households must meet income guidelines listed below and live in one of the following communities:

- Oak Creek
- South Milwaukee
- St. Francis
- Cudahy
- West Milwaukee
- Franklin
- Hales Corner
- Greendale
- Greenfield
- Brown Deer
- Shorewood
- Bayside
- Glendale
- Whitefish Bay
- River Hills
- Fox Point

Income Guidelines

Household Size	Income Limit (2013)
1	\$39,350
2	\$44,950
3	\$50,550
4	\$56,150
5	\$60,650
6	\$65,150

For more information call the Home Repair Program at 414-278-4917 or email homerepair@milwcnty.com



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Helpful Tips

Urgent Safety Tips:

- Do not work outside during lightning storms.
- Make sure you have at least one working smoke detector on every floor of your home including the basement.
- Make sure your home has at least one working carbon monoxide detector on every floor.
- Use caution when dealing with standing water. Unplug or make sure electrical cords are not touching the floor or left in areas where water may reach. Turn off utilities in cases of serious flooding.

General Tips

- Make sure all water is flowing away from your home's foundation.
 - In times of high rain, downspouts may need to be extended further from your home so water does not recycle back to your basement.
 - Make sure sump pumps are discharging to a point far enough from the home and where grading will allow water to flow away from your home. Again, you don't want water recycling back to your basement.
- Make sure your gutters are clear and functioning. During a rain even (WITHOUT LIGHTNING) observe your gutters and note any areas that are leaking or may be clogged.
- Keep sump pumps in good working condition and have a backup plan.
- If you don't have a sump pump, make sure basement floor drains are clog free.
- Report sewer issues to your municipal public works. It could be a neighborhood issue or it could be your home's lateral. A licensed plumber will be able to determine the cause of a backup and offer solutions ranging from cleaning of lines, replacement of laterals, and check valves.

Post Flooding Tips

- Do your best to get flooded areas dry in 48 hours to prevent mold. Work with your insurance company to see if they can provide assistance using professional cleaning and

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<http://county.milwaukee.gov/HealthandHumanService7753.htm>



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restoration companies. This will prevent mold, and mold is generally excluded from insurance coverage.

- Wear a mask and gloves when cleaning and use 1 part bleach to 10 parts water and durable surfaces. Wash your hands often and avoid skin contact with flood water. Contact your health department for additional suggestions.
- Use licensed contractors to make repairs. Verify with Wisconsin Safety and Buildings, <http://dsps.wi.gov/Licenses-Permits/Credentialing/trades-professions>, or your local building inspector that contractors are licensed.
- *Repairing Your Flooded Home from the American Red Cross* and FEMA is a good resource for more suggestions.

Be a Good Neighbor

- Please do not point or direct sump pump hoses or downspouts toward your neighbor's house.
- Check on the elderly and those unable to access their basements. Make sure they have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

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