

# SOMETHING IN THE WATER: HOW TO STOP PESTS FROM FLOWING IN AFTER A FLOOD

The end of winter means the beginning of vivid, green summers. But it also means the arrival of something far less pleasant—severe flooding. When snow starts melting, it's important to be prepared for the long-term consequences of floods, including increased pest activity.

## Unwelcome Visitors

Pests will try to seek relief from flood waters to survive. Rats and cockroaches in sewage systems will be forced to higher ground. Crawling insects that escape the floods will scatter in large numbers into dry buildings.

Plus, when flood waters recede, your property may be left with:



### **ACCUMULATED DEBRIS**

Attracts flies, scavenging beetles and cockroaches



### **MOLD GROWTH**

Attracts mold-feeding insects like plaster and fungus beetles



### **WET OR ROTTING WOOD**

Leads to carpenter ant infestations and damage

## STAYING FLOOD-READY

Here are a few proactive measures you should take to help prevent pest activity:

- **Cover gutters with mesh.** This will help prevent debris like leaves from piling up and clogging gutters, which gives pests a place to hide and breed.
- **Repair and maintain all window and door screens.** Be sure screens fit tightly and have no holes. This will prevent easy entry points for pests.
- **Seal cracks and gaps around the building's exterior.** Rats can fit through holes as small as a quarter.
- **Fix leaks and eliminate pooled water immediately.** Pests are attracted to moisture, so any excess water—inside or outside—is a welcoming invite.
- **Cap or screen floor drains.** This helps prevent rodents, cockroaches and crawling insects entering through the sewage system.

## POST-FLOOD PREVENTION

Once the waters have receded, take the following steps to help defend against pests:

- **Eliminate any leftover standing water.** Empty or dispose of containers and other objects that hold liquid.
- **Remove clutter.** There's no telling what pests may have crawled into during a flood.
- **Clean up fallen tree branches and vegetation.** These are likely pest havens in the aftermath of a flood.
- **Inspect for structural damage.** Check the entire property, and dry or aerate any wet wood to prevent mold, rot, fungal beetles and carpenter ant infestations.
- **Be sure trash cans are tightly sealed.** Your waste management provider may not arrive for several days following a flood, which gives pests ample time to dig in to your leftovers.
- **Keep pest management in mind during repairs.** Pests that infest your property during construction can be hard to remove afterwards, especially if they're sealed in the walls.

## WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

If you have pest concerns after flooding or water damage, call Orkin Canada for more information about preventing and resolving pest problems.



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