



Cleaning Up After a Flood: Basement Pump-outs: FAQs

If you notice oil or hazardous substances in your basement along with water, do not pump the water onto your lawn or into the street.

How do I control odors?

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) present in oil are causing the odor. You can smell most pollutants well below levels that would cause health problems. Odors will be strongest in areas where oil is present. To minimize odors throughout the house, keep any doors closed between the main living area and the space where the oil release occurred. If possible, ventilate the area where the oil is present.

What should I do if I get oil or chemicals on my skin or clothing?

Wash affected skin with soap and water. Avoid using harsh detergents, solvents, or other chemicals to wash oil from skin as they may promote absorption of the oil through the skin. If you get oil on your clothing, wash in the usual way but separate from other clothing.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now assisting with residential pump-outs of basements.

To receive free help pumping
out your basement, contact:
EPA: George Zachos,
Regional Public Liaison
888-283-7626

In New York, call the New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation hotline: 1-800-457-7362
In New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection at
1-877-WARN DEP/1-877-927-6337

For more clean up tips: www.epa.gov/sandy