



What to Do When Broken Water Pipes Causes Damage

DETERMINE THE SAFETY OF YOUR FACILITY AND OPERATING CONDITIONS

- Exercise caution before entering a building that may have sustained ceiling or wall collapse.
- If there is significant damage, close your establishment and do not conduct any food operations including food preparation and handling, warewashing, and cleaning.**
- Contact the Houston Permitting Center at (832) 394-8810; 1002 Washington, Houston, 77002; 8 AM-4:30 PM. before replacing large floor-mounted equipment, repairing or replacing interior surfaces, or repairing, replacing or remodeling the facility's structure. Refer to [Recovering From Flood and Structural Damage](#).
- Food operations may continue if the damage is confined to one area and food safety requirements can be met in the unaffected areas.
 - However, the Houston Permitting Center must be contacted before repairs are made in the affected area.

DISCARD, CLEAN, AND SANITIZE

Assess Food and Non-Food Items

- Refer to the [Food and Equipment Salvage Chart](#) to determine what food, equipment, tableware, furnishings, and single-service items must be discarded and what can be kept if subjected to a long term power or water outage, flooding, or a fire.
- If cleanup begins before a BCHS health officer arrives, document the type and pounds of food discarded and the method of disposal.
- Discard all suspect foods and single-service items according to [Proper Disposal of Contaminated Food](#).

When in Doubt, Throw it Out!

Clean and Sanitize

Do not clean the facility and equipment if the water supply is not potable (safe), the wastewater system is not functioning, and/or electricity is unavailable for heating water and providing sufficient lighting for cleaning.

- Determine whether the water, wastewater, and electrical systems are operational.
- Wash and rinse furniture and floors.
- Wash, rinse, and sanitize all food-contact surfaces, work stations, utensils, dishes, silverware, and glassware that were exposed to water from broken pipes.

PREPARE FOR REOPENING

Meet the Requirements for Resuming Operations

- Refer to the [Requirements to Resume Operations](#)

Contact BCHS at www.houstonconsumer.org or chs@houstonconsumer.org

- To request a pre-opening inspection if permits and/or approval were needed from the Houston Permitting Center.

