

OUR COMMITMENT to you

The Water Authority was established in 1983 as a statutory body responsible for supplying wholesome and affordable drinking water to the people of the Cayman Islands.

The Water Authority is also responsible for the proper treatment of wastewater and for the protection of the fresh groundwater lenses that exist throughout the Cayman Islands.

For more information, visit us at
www.waterauthority.ky

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Water Authority - Cayman

"Suppliers of the World's Most Popular Drink"

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WASTEWATER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Follow these recommendations to ensure you are prepared to deal safely with storm damaged/flooded onsite wastewater treatment systems.



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PROTECT YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY WHEN DEALING WITH A WASTEWATER SPILL



- Wear rubber boots and gloves when working around sewage
- Wash your hands frequently
- Treat any surfacing sewage with quicklime or household bleach
- Keep children clear of the area
- Temporarily plug shower or bath drains, if necessary, to keep sewage from backing into the house
- Disinfect all contaminated areas and items in your home with a mixture of 9 parts water and 1-part household bleach
- When cleaning up after the storm minimise the amount of mud or silt going into drains, as it may cause further backups

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEM IS DAMAGED

Emergency management of wastewater treatment systems, including temporary fixes, are necessary for the immediate aftermath of the storm when basic needs must be met in the absence of adequate materials or services.

The effects of a hurricane may have damaged your on-site wastewater treatment system. Some systems may function once floodwater recede; others may be so damaged that repairs are required before they properly work.

Extensive damage at some sites may require that a development be demolished. In these cases, it is vital to properly abandon the associated wastewater treatment system to minimise risks to the health and safety of people and the environment.

As we move to the redevelopment stage, all wastewater treatment systems will be required to meet the Water Authority's standards. These standards depend on the type and size of the development, but in all cases require water-tight systems for the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater.

The following guidelines will help minimise exposure to untreated wastewater. We have a shared responsibility to ensure adequate treatment of wastewater to protect our health, environment, and future.

INSPECT & REPAIR THE SYSTEM

- If sewage is backing up into the house, or if the septic tank or treatment plant remains under floodwaters, do not use it until floodwaters recede and the system can be serviced. Use a portable toilet (e.g. a container lined with a plastic bag) in the meantime.
- Inspect all piping, exposed areas of the tank and the disposal well; have necessary repairs made by a professional.
- Do not have the system pumped empty in areas of high groundwater; doing so may cause the tank to 'pop out' or collapse due to groundwater pressure outside the tank.
- Conserve water to minimise the risk of overloading damaged systems.

PROPER ABANDONMENT OF SYSTEMS

- Disconnect power at the source to all electrical controls and remove controls and panels.
- Remove all parts of the system on the ground surface such as valves, valve boxes, and risers.
- Have a septage hauler pump the wastewater and sludge from all the tanks in the system.
- Cave in or remove the top of the tank(s).
- Fill the tank with clean fill material or sand.
- Backfill the area to a natural grade.



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SEWAGE