



MALHEUR COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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Flooded septic tanks and drain fields

Several items to consider with regard to floods and septic systems are:

- Silts and clays can be transported by floodwaters to septic tanks during floods. Pumping out the septic tank may be needed after these events
- Do not pump out the septic tank more than halfway or the tank may float out of the ground due to the saturated soil around the tank.
- Reduce all nonessential water use, such as dishwashing, washing clothes, showering. • Flush toilets as little as possible or use a temporary toilet.
- Floods may cause erosion around a property.
- Avoid exposure to flood water. Flood waters can contain a variety of contaminants including sewage, pesticides and industrial chemicals.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Malheur County Environmental Health.