

# Returning to your business premises after a severe weather event



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

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Brisbane City Council is committed to supporting businesses to recover from severe weather impacts. This fact sheet provides information about clean-up considerations and safety tips for business operators returning to their premises.

## Clean up considerations

When you return to your premises to get your business up and running safely again, consider the following:

**Electrical and power safety** – Contact a licensed electrician to do a safety check of all electrical equipment that has been inundated or has potentially come into contact with flood water before turning on the power. Further information is available from [Energex](#).

**Gas safety** - Following a flood, your gas installation and appliances need to be inspected by a licensed gasfitter before they can be used.

**Hazards** - Identify any materials likely to contain asbestos or dangerous chemicals and have them removed by a specialist before commencing your clean-up activities.

## Health and safety

- Protect yourself from possible contaminants and bacteria in residue flood waters by always wearing rubber gloves and water-resistant clothing, including gumboots.
- Wear a face mask and ensure that you cover any open wounds before you start cleaning.
- Avoid clean-up activities at night as this is when accidents are more likely to occur.
- Allow for adequate ventilation by opening windows and doors.

Further information for workers involved in flood recovery is available from [WorkSafe Queensland](#).

## Insurance

- Take photos of any damage including to equipment, furniture, furnishings, floor covering, appliances etc. before removing them from your business premises.
- Contact your insurance broker or insurance company as soon as possible to check your policy requirements.

## Weather-affected buildings

If you are concerned about the structural integrity of the building, contact a private building certifier who can undertake an assessment of your property.

The Queensland Building and Construction Commission ([QBCC](#)) can help you recover by providing technical and general advice about a wide range of rebuilding issues.

## Helpful contacts

Brisbane City Council Business Hotline	133 263
State Emergency Services (SES)	132 500
Community Recovery Hotline	1800 173 349
Queensland Urban Utilities (QUU) - faults and emergencies	132 364
Energex - power outages	13 62 62
Telstra	132 200
Optus	133 343
Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC)	139 333
Queensland Small Business Commissioner	1300 312 344
Queensland Health	13 43 25 84
WorkSafe Queensland	1300 362 128