



## Flood Cleanup: Electrical Systems

### Heating systems and appliances

Do not use flooded appliances, electrical outlets, switch boxes or fuse-breaker panels until they have been checked by Saint John Energy or the Department of Public Safety.

If your power has been shut off by Saint John Energy, you must contact your local electrical inspector or licensed electrical contractor before Saint John Energy can turn on your electrical supply.

### Electrical Tips

- Use extreme caution when returning home to a flood damaged area.
- Stay clear of wires.
- Do not assume that any part of a flooded electrical installation/appliance is safe.
- Disconnect power prior to inspecting electrical devices.
- Call a licensed electrician for repairs to electrical appliances/installations to ensure your safety when you re-energize your electrical system.
- **Do not energize any electrical equipment if it has been under water. These items may work and appear safe but once they have been under water, they could cause electrocution or fire.**

### To prevent a fire and electrical hazard, you may need to replace/repair the following:

- Light switches, thermostats, outlets, light fixtures, electric heaters, ceiling fans, etc.
- Furnace burner and blower motor, ignition transformer, elements, relay (oil furnace and oil hot water tank, electric furnace).
- Hot water tank (electric, oil, or propane).
- Electrical appliances, sump pump, water pumps and related equipment, washer, dryer, dehumidifier, vacuum, tools, exercise equipment. There are many switches, motors, and transformers that will be corroded.
- Breakers, fuses, fuse holders.

### Inspections

Whether you use a wood, gas or electrical heating system, you must have it thoroughly inspected by a qualified technician before using it again. If they have been soaked, replace the furnace blower motor, switches and controls. Flooded forced-air heating ducts and return-duct pans should be either cleaned or replaced.

Replace filters and insulation inside furnaces, water heaters, refrigerators and freezers if they have been wet. However, it is often cheaper to replace this equipment.

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