

Dangers of Flooding and Standing Water

A historic flash flood event occurred in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and the surrounding areas on April 12, 2023. The Fort Lauderdale area reported 25.6 inches of rain within approximately 12 hours. 21.42 in of rain fell in nearby Dania Beach. Other affected areas, such as Hollywood and South Miami recorded at least 9 inches of rain.

Water May Pose a Threat to Drivers

There is a temptation to drive on through flooded areas, but as many drivers have learned, there is a danger in doing so. Take into consideration the following:

- * Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- * A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- * Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups.

Water Can Be a Pest Magnet

It is common for water to accumulate, after heavy rainfall, in areas with uneven surfaces or poor drainage. Your lawn can only absorb so much water after a rainstorm. Moreover, outdoor water containers, such as birdbaths, fountains, and buckets, can collect a substantial amount of water if not drained periodically. Ignoring a pool of still water can be dangerous to the health of your family and pets. Even a quarter inch of water can be the perfect breeding ground for a variety of harmful pests and pathogens, such as mosquitoes, maggots, algae, and bacteria. Potential risks can include painful bites, allergies, and life-threatening diseases. Excessive moisture can also encourage the growth of toxic molds on the exterior surface of your home.

Tips to Prevent Standing Water

Eliminating standing water can be one of the most effective ways to reduce the pest population in your yard. Take a tour after a rainfall to assess the condition of your yard. Even out the surface of the ground to get rid of depressions and bumps. Ensure that all the outdoor water containers are drained properly and covered or inverted. Check your gutters and drainage pipes for clogs or leakage. If you have a pool or ornamental pond, consider installing recirculating equipment so that the water is flowing as opposed to remaining stagnant.