

WATER DAMAGE AND REMEDIATION

What to Do After Flooding

- Remove excess water by mopping and blotting.
- Wipe excess water from wood furniture after removal of lamps and tabletop items.
- Remove and prop wet upholstery and cushions.
- Place aluminum foil or wood blocks between furniture legs and wet carpeting.
- Use a vacuum approved for removal of excess water.
- Turn air conditioning on for maximum drying in summer.
- Remove colored rugs from wet carpeting.
- Move art objects to a safe, dry place.
- Gather loose items from floors.
- Keep out of rooms where ceilings are sagging.

What NOT to Do After Flooding

- Leave wet fabrics in place.
- Leave books, magazines or other colored items on wet carpet or floors.
- Use your household vacuum to remove water.
- Use television or other household appliances.
- Turn on ceiling fixtures if ceiling is wet.

Three Types of Contaminated Water

Category 1: "Clean Water"

- Water from a clean source like a broken water line
- If left untreated, can degrade into category 2 or 3

Category 2: "Gray Water"

- Water from sources like washing machine overflow, toilet overflow with some urine and no feces, or dishwasher overflow
- May contain bacteria and viruses
- Could cause discomfort or illness
- Can quickly degrade into category 3 if left untreated

Category 3: "Black Water"

- Grossly contaminated from sources like flooding from rivers, sewer backup, or standing water that has begun to support microbial growth
- Could cause severe illness or death if ingested. Any contact should be avoided.
- May contain untreated sewage, harsh chemicals, and microbes

What to Do After a Contamination

- Stay out of affected areas.
- Call emergency service personnel if the situation is life-threatening.
- Treat *all* bodily fluids as if they are contaminated.
- Turn off the HVAC system if there is sewage damage.

Biohazard contamination like flood water or sewer backups should be considered an emergency and dealt with as quickly as possible. Contact the Risk Management office for information on professionals who are water damage restoration specialists and have specific training and expertise to safely remediate biohazard contaminants.

MOLD REMEDIATION

What to Do:

- Stay out of affected areas.
- Turn off the HVAC system and fans.
- Contact a professional restoration contractor for mold remediation services.

What NOT to Do:

- Touch or disturb the mold.
- Blow air across any surfaces with visible or suspected mold growth.
- Attempt to dry the area yourself.
- Spray bleach or other disinfectants on the mold.