

STEPS TO FLOOD RECOVERY

Entering Your Home

Prevent Fire & Electrocutation: Disconnect gas and electrical before entering the home; have the electrical, gas, and A/C condenser checked by a professional before resuming normal operation.

Protect Your Health*: Flood water contaminants and mold can be hazardous to your health. Wear protective clothing and a R95 rated respirator mask while inside a flooded home with mold growth.

Assess the Damage: Take pictures of every room and detailed images of damaged contents for insurance and disaster aid. Document the high water mark inside the home by taking a picture with a measuring tape next to the water mark.

Remove Unharmed Items: Store items not damaged by flood outside the home if possible. Humidity from flood saturation and lack of A/C dehumidification can cause mold growth throughout the home, even if those surfaces were not damaged by flood.

Ask For Help

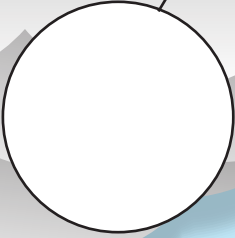
Contact your flood insurance company to report losses.

Homeowner's insurance does not cover flood damage. If this is a federally declared disaster you may be eligible for FEMA assistance. Voluntary organizations often help muck/gut homes and have rebuild programs for eligible homeowners. Dial 211 to find voluntary organizations in your area.

Removing Flood Damaged Materials

Remove Wet Home Goods: Dispose of furniture that cannot be cleaned or dried out, such as mattresses, couch cushions, and particle board. Solid wood, plastic, metal, and glass furniture can be salvaged.

Flooring: Carpeting, laminate, and warped wood cannot be salvaged. In-tact ceramic tile can be cleaned and remain in place. Waterproof vinyl should be lifted off the subfloor to allow drying.



Appliances: Flood water inside appliances is not healthy or safe. In addition to electrical hazards, water may become trapped in insulation used on dishwashers, refrigerators, and fireplaces which can cause mold.

Dry out walls: Interior wall coverings (sheetrock, paneling) must be removed to dispose of wet insulation and to allow studs to dry.

Remove the bottom four feet of wall board for flood damage below four feet. Remove wall board from floor to ceiling for flooding over four feet.

Mold Prevention & Cleaning

Dry the Inside of your Home: Use portable dehumidifiers and fans in conjunction with the A/C unit. Drying can take months, so do not rebuild immediately.

Check Moisture Content of Stud Walls and Floors*: Placing new building materials on top of wet wood or concrete creates conditions for mold growth. Use a moisture meter to check dryness. Drying target for wood: 15% moisture content.

Cleaning Mold & Disinfecting*: Use non-phosphate household cleaners and bleach to clean and disinfect your flooded home. Bleach will not kill mold. A moldicide spray treatment is needed to eradicate active mold growth.

Private Water Well Testing*: Private water wells should be tested & cleaned after a flood event due to groundwater contamination.

Rebuild Responsibly

Get a PERMIT Before You Rebuild*: Rebuilding without a permit is unsafe, against the law, and you could be fined according to your community's flood damage prevention ordinance. Contact your local Floodplain Admin./Building Dept. about permitting after a flood.

Rebuild Flood Hardy*: Use flood resistant building materials and techniques to lessen losses in future floods. Hire licensed contractors when rebuilding.

Additional Resources*: Community information, flood recovery publications & instructional videos can be found at:

LFMA.org/DRT

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