

Minor Flooding Checklist



Follow these tips to clean up your home if it has a few inches of water in the basement or other rooms.

Higher amounts of water require more extensive and specialized actions. Dangerous mold growth can start as early as 48 hours after flooding. Dry and clean items as soon as it is safe to do so.

SAFETY FIRST!

- If you suspect water is touching any plugged-in electrical devices or has reached outlets, **DO NOT** touch the water.
- Turn off the electricity to the area if you can.
- Get professional help from a water damage restoration company to ensure there is no electric shock hazard before you do anything else in the area.
- Once it's safe to enter, remove all electrical items and hazardous materials from the area.
- If hazardous material, sewage or a large amount of mud is mixed in the water, make sure you wear proper protective materials - including gloves and boots - when cleaning.

NEXT STEPS

- Identify the source of water if you can and take steps to prevent additional water from entering.
- Take pictures for your records and insurance.
- Contact your insurance agent.

Contact a water damage restoration company if you cannot do any of the following on your own:

- Get as much water as you can out of the area - wet/dry shop vacuums or wringing mops can help.
- Remove furniture from the rooms to help both the flooring and furniture items dry.
- Place wet papers, photos and books into plastic bags in your freezer if you can't dry them out immediately. This will stop mold growth until you have time to dry them out fully.
- Run fans and dehumidifiers to speed up drying.
- If water has covered baseboards or drywall, these materials may need to be removed to prevent mold. Drywall and any wet insulation needs to be removed several inches above the wet area.
- Flooring that is unable to be fully dried may have to be removed.
- You can use a bleach solution to disinfect items and prevent mold growth. Put any loose fabric items that got wet through the laundry.
- Notify your city of your flooding so they can record impacts and damages for state disaster officials.