



PREPARE

**get ready for flood
clean-up with these
must-know tips**

Protective Clothing

Use the check-list below to assemble your kit of necessary protective clothing. These clothes are important for avoiding contact with sharp or infectious materials during the flood clean-up process.

- Mold Respirator** (N-95; tightly fitted- seal should not be compromised by facial hair; dust mask may not be enough)
- Gloves** (rubber to mid-arm for water/waste biohazard, work gloves for sharps)
- Goggles** (better without vent holes)
- Boots/Heavy Soles** (for protection against water and sharp objects)
- Outerware: **Rubber waders** or disposable splash protection

Hazards

Be aware of common hazards encountered during a flood clean-up, including:

- Structural collapse
- Electrical (wires, circuit boxes down or under water)
- Gas leak: **DO NOT ENTER IF THESE ARE NOT SECURED.**
- Sewage/manure in water
- Hazmat (cleaning fluids)
- Animals
- Sharp objects (nails, glass, especially under water/mud)

Safety Tips

- **NEVER ASSUME THAT WATER-DAMAGED STRUCTURES ARE SAFE.** Leave if shifting or unusual noise occur.
- **NEVER HANDLE A DOWNED POWER LINE.**
- Work in pairs or groups and take short breaks.
- Immediately clean open wounds with soap and water. Cuts beyond minor scratches need medical attention.
- Avoid lifting more than 50 pounds.
- Work during the cooler hours of the day.
- Avoid heat stroke by wearing light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and drinking fluids every 15-20 minutes.



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RESPOND

**follow these steps
for safe, effective
flood clean-up**

Three Step Clean-up

- 1 Remove and discard everything porous/absorbent that was touched by flood water:** upholstered furniture, carpet, false ceiling panels, and anything with mold. Some items (Non-porous) can be sanitized by bleach/sunlight or preserved by specialists. Dry these items thoroughly outdoors; hours of sunlight helps disinfect after bleaching.
- 2 Scoop out mud and debris;** dump in approved facility or down slope from houses. Use caution: sharp objects could be hidden in the mud or water.
- 3 Sanitize all surfaces:** using 10% bleach or 1% chlorinated lime, clean floors, walls, doors/knobs, cabinets/counters. Let dry.

Basement Flooding

When basements flood, it is necessary to take extra steps to complete the clean-up process.

- Pump out standing water, but not lower than groundwater level outside house (to avoid collapsing walls).
- Disinfect all standing water with bleach (4-8 cups of bleach per bathtub-full or barrel of flood water).
- Remove all mud and waterlogged objects (as described in steps 1 and 2).
- Sanitize all surfaces (as described in step 3).
- Open windows or use furnace to help dry.

Mold & Drywall Removal

Because mold is particularly dangerous if not removed correctly, the EPA suggests hiring a professional or following their commercial mold guidance if there is more than 10 sq. ft. of mold.

- Fix plumbing leaks and other water problems as soon as possible. Dry all items completely.
- Remove wet sheetrock and insulation at least 6 inches above the water line (or more) if it appears the sheetrock has absorbed water higher up. Remove in 4'x8' sections for ease of installing new sheets. Disinfect exposed, wet areas behind infected wall.
- Heat ducts and vents could have mold in them. Do not run these system until sure they do not contain mold; call a professional if necessary.
- If electrical outlets are wet, do not put up new walls until an electrical inspection is done. Electrical outlets that have gotten wet will have to be replaced.
- Scrub mold off hard surfaces with detergent and water. Let dry completely.
- All absorbent or porous materials, such as drywall, ceiling tiles and carpet, should be thrown away if they have been in contact with flood water or become moldy.
- Avoid exposing yourself or others to mold by wearing appropriate clothing, including a face mask, gloves, and outerwear.
- Do not paint or caulk moldy surfaces. Clean up the mold and dry the surfaces before painting.