

Disaster Relief

Priorities for Cleanup and Repair

Priorities for cleanup and repair vary, according to the kind and seriousness of damage. Buildings may not be habitable during repair.

- Examine building structure.
 - Check foundations for settling, cracking, or undermining.
 - Examine walls, floors, doors and windows for what repairs are necessary.
 - You may want to repair only temporarily until extensive work can be done.
- If basement is flooded, start pumping the water in stages. Pump about a third of the water each day.
- Get the electrical system working.
 - If the switchbox is in a flooded basement, do not turn electricity back on until you have pumped out the water.
 - Take electrical appliances to a qualified service repair center as soon as possible.
- Get the water system working. Disinfect wells and water system.
- Shovel out mud and silt before it dries.
- Before they dry, wash down flooded walls and floors with hose. Start at upper limit of flooding and work downward.
- Scrub and disinfect walls and floors.
- Start heating system, if possible, to speed up drying.
 - Before operating the heating system, you may need to clean, dry, and recondition it.
 - Make sure chimneys are clean before starting the system.
- Dry out walls and floors.
 - If required for proper drying, strip drywall up to water level.
 - Drill holes in exterior siding.
 - Complete drying may take months.
- Repair buckled walls and floors.
- Clean and dry household items, furniture, carpets, clothing, dishes, and bedding. Disinfect when necessary.
- Treat items for mildew as needed.
- Care for damaged trees, shrubs, and lawn.
- Repaint, repair, and refinish as necessary.

Supplies and Equipment for Home Cleanup

Cleaning Supplies

- _ Low sudsy detergents
- _ Bleaches
- _ Disinfectants
- _ Ammonia
- _ Scouring powder
- _ Rubber gloves
- _ Strong boots or heavy-soled shoes

Equipment for Small Jobs

- _ Buckets
- _ Tools (crowbar, hammer, screwdriver)
- _ Sponges and cloths
- _ Scrub brushes
- _ Scoops
- _ Throw-away containers for garbage, and container to carry from house to street
- _ Water hose

Equipment for Large Jobs

- _ Buckets
- _ Tools
- _ Brooms
- _ Shovels
- _ Hoes
- _ Sponge mop or a mop that is easily squeezed out
- _ Water hose
- _ Wheelbarrow
- _ Dolly
- _ Bushel baskets
- _ Wash tubs (for soaking objects)

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