



# Return Home Safely!

## Safety Recommendations for Returning to Your Home after a Flood



**Follow the directions of your local authority as you prepare to return home. Do not return home until local authorities tell you it is OK to re-enter your property.**



Stay out of homes and buildings until you are sure there is no structural damage.

Remove mold and debris from your home or building before you let children, older adults, pregnant women, persons who are sick, and pets to reenter.



Be sure that the power is off before entering any flooded home or building. And never touch any power switch if you are standing in water or on wet ground.

If you smell gas, or hear the sound of escaping gas, leave the building immediately. Do not use cell phones, matches, lighters, or electrical equipment inside the building and avoid touching electrical switches. Call emergency officials for help and wait for clearance before reentering.



Open all windows and doors as soon as you enter the building. Then exit the building and do not reenter until it has aired out for 30 minutes.



Gas generators and pressure washers give off deadly gases that you cannot smell or see. NEVER operate gas generators or pressure washers inside a house, garage or other enclosed areas; or near doors, windows, air conditioning units, or vents. If you feel sick or dizzy, go outside to fresh air immediately.



Dry out buildings as soon as possible. Open windows and doors and use fans or dehumidifiers to remove moisture.

Use fans to dry out buildings after cleaning. Put fans in windows blowing **OUT** so mold won't spread inside the building.



Never mix household cleaners. Mixing bleach and ammonia generates toxic fumes that can make you sick.

Properly dispose of all wet materials that can't be thoroughly cleaned and dried, such as fabric furniture, mattresses, carpeting, stuffed animals and baby toys.



Remove standing water in buildings as soon as possible. Limit your contact with flood water and avoid any direct contact with contaminated water.



N-95 Respirator

Limit your exposure to mold, which can enter the air. Wear an N-95 respirator, goggles, rubber gloves, and rubber boots while working in moldy areas. N-95 respirators are masks that cover the nose and mouth and filter particles in air, including mold and dust. They can be bought at local hardware stores.



N-95 Respirator

Molds that grow after flooding often produce mold spores. Breathing mold spores can cause coughing, congestion, runny nose, burning eyes, headaches, sneezing, sore throat, and can make breathing problems, like asthma, worse. Children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with weak immune systems may be more sensitive to mold. Talk to your doctor about any health concerns you may have.

N-100 Respirator



You may be exposed to asbestos-containing materials when cleaning up homes or buildings. Therefore you should wear a respirator whenever possible. NIOSH-rated N-100, R-100 or P-100 respirators provide the minimum level of protection from asbestos fibers. N-95 respirators **DO NOT** provide adequate protection from asbestos exposure. They are not recommended for this use and **should not** be worn for this purpose.

Wash your hands and remove your clothes before removing your mask and goggles.



Keep all cleaning products securely out of reach of children. In case of poisoning call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 immediately.