

What to do After the Disaster

Handy tips for cleaning up after a hurricane, fire, water damage or other disaster.

Immediately

- Notify your insurance carrier as emergency services are covered. You have the right to hire any restoration company, not just the ones they suggest.
- Track dates and times of conversations with individuals pertaining to your claim.
- Save all related receipts for incidental expenses in case your insurance coverage provides reimbursements.
- Take photos or video footage of each room for a digital inventory of contents. Prepare a written inventory if possible. Hopefully you have filed photos taken before the disaster in your safe deposit box.
- Remove valuables if you are not staying in the house (jewelry, passports, licenses, insurance, birth certificates)
- Beware of scammers offering restoration services. Check references.

Safety

- Do not turn on any electrical appliances, including televisions and computers damaged by water when power is restored. This can result in electric shock and/or further damage to the appliance.
- Wear heavy rubber or work gloves and thick-soled shoes, preferably not tennis shoes, since there may be exposed nails, glass and other sharp objects.
- Enter only during daylight hours if there is no electricity.
- Leave immediately if you smell gas or the structure is unstable.
- Stay out of rooms with sagging ceilings.
- If the power is off—turn off the main breaker and tape it down to prevent it from accidentally turning on when the power is restored.
- If you have fuel oil or propane, turn off the valve at the tank. Turn natural gas off at the meter.
- Treat all water affected surfaces and furnishings as toxic until properly decontaminated.
- When leaving, secure the building to prevent further damage.

Health

- Keep a first aid kit handy.
- Stay out of flooded areas if possible, particularly if you are pregnant or have asthma.
- Get a Tetanus shot if you have not had one in the past few years.
- Wash your hands frequently—especially before touching your face or eating.
- Don't wear dirty clothes or shoes into the clean or undamaged part of a structure to avoid cross contamination.
- Be careful reaching into muddy water—there can be sharp items, broken glass.
- Drink lots of water to stay hydrated.

Restoration

- Move all computers and musical instruments to a dry environment.
- Remove everything from wet furniture tops.
- In wet environments, open windows to ventilate the area. Open drawers and cabinets for interior drying.
- Remove standing water from flat surfaces by sponging and blotting.
- Use household disinfectants, not bleach as it can be corrosive.
- Dry out as much as you can to prevent further damage. Mold starts to grow in about 48 hours.
- Dispose of food in freezers and refrigerators if power is off for more than 24–48 hours.
- Remove wet drywall, insulation, carpeting, and padding impacted by flood waters.
- Dry out all wall cavities thoroughly to prevent mold growth.
- Restoration firms can help with drying structures and cleaning contents.
- Homeowners may hire any restoration company they choose and are not limited to only those suggested by an insurer.

PROVIDED BY:



EMERGENCY SERVICE: 401.849.6644

www.ParadiseCleaningandRestoration.com