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Emergency Tips for Water Damage

(Compiled by members and staff of the National Institute for Disaster Restoration)

DO...

- Ventilate all wet areas. Turn on air conditioning for accelerated drying in summer; in winter, alternate cycles of opened windows and heating.
- Remove standing water from flat surfaces by sponging and blotting.
- Take up saturated rugs and carpets when hardwood floors are at risk.
- Stay out of rooms where ceilings are sagging from retained water.
- Transport computers to a dry environment, remove cases and blow dry with low pressure air.
- Remove lamps, telephones and decorative items from wet furniture tops.
- Open drawers and cabinet doors for interior drying, but do not force open stuck drawers or doors.
- Freeze valuable books and documents to retard mildew growth until drying can be performed.
- Place aluminum foil squares, china saucers or wood blocks under furniture legs to avoid carpet staining.

DO NOT...

- Use heat to dry closed building interiors; mildew and expanded moisture damage may result.
- Operate TVs, vacuums or other appliances while standing on wet carpet or floors, especially not on wet concrete floors. Serious injury may result.
- Leave wet fabrics in place; space them apart and dry as soon as possible.
- Turn on computers, TVs, stereos or electrical appliances until they have been cleaned and checked.

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