

Prevent Microbial Growth

- Remove excess water with pumps, wet vacs, or mops
- Dehumidifiers, fans, heated air, and active ventilation should be used to speed up drying
- All upholstered furniture and mattresses should be discarded
- Affected areas should be scrubbed with a detergent solution, disinfected, and allowed to dry

Practice Safety

- Always wear rubber gloves, boots and protective eyewear
- Assume anything touched by sewage is contaminated
- Wash, disinfect or discard any clothing and supplies immediately after use

Handling Chemicals

Disinfectants are typically chemical agents that reduce the number of pathogens. Always follow manufacturer instructions when mixing and using disinfectants and other chemicals. To prepare surfaces for disinfection, wash the surface with warm soapy water and then rinse.

FINDING PROFESSIONALS

In some cases, professional assistance may be needed to assist with flood clean-up. This is especially true if you had sewage back-up as raw sewage poses a health risk. Here are some tips for finding qualified professionals to assist with your clean-up:

- Search for “carpet cleaning”, “fire restoration”, “mold abatement” or “flood cleanup”
- Prior to hiring a service, be sure they are qualified to perform the job
- Check references and ensure they are insured

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In some large-scale emergencies, financial assistance is available. Contact your local officials to inquire about available assistance.

This may not be available in all situations.

Experienced Flooding?



Find tips and resources for safe clean-up.



What to keep?

After it comes into contact with flood waters, you should **always discard** food, cosmetics, medicines & medical supplies, stuffed animals, soft toys, mattresses & pillows, upholstered couches & chairs, carpet padding and cardboard.

After it comes into contact with flood waters, you should **usually discard** foam rubber, large carpets, books and paper products.

When in doubt, throw it out.

FAQs

Q: What should I do if an electrical outlet gets wet?

A:

- Turn off the power at the main breaker panel
- Unplug anything that is plugged into the outlet after electricity has been turned off
- Inspect the outlet for damage
- If you see damage, call a licensed electrician

Q: Do I need to replace electrical wiring after a flood?

A: It depends. The depth of the water and how long the wiring has been submerged can play a role in the need to replace the wiring. The best way to determine if the wiring needs replacement is to call a licensed electrician.

Q: Can water damage cause an electrical fire?

A: Yes, when live electrical wires and outlets come into contact with water it can cause an electrical fire. If you have water damage in your home, it's important to turn off the electricity and call a licensed electrician to assess and repair the damage as soon as possible.

Q: Can appliances be used after flooding?

A: Appliances, electrical equipment and HVAC equipment should **not** be used immediately after a flood. Before using, have a qualified technician thoroughly inspect and assess the extent of water damage to avoid potentially hazardous situations like fires.

Q: My basement has standing water and appliances are still plugged in. What do I do?

A: **Do not** attempt to enter the basement. You should contact your electrical provider to have them shut off your electricity prior to attempting any clean-up.

