

News Release:

Receding Flood Waters

Buildings which have been flooded should be examined carefully before entering for cleanup. Homeowners should check for loose power lines, gas leaks, foundation cracks or other damage. If damage is noted, a building contractor should check the building before anyone enters.

Water needs to be cleaned up within 24-48 hours. Mold will begin to develop after 48 hours, especially if it is hot and humid. Molds can produce a variety of allergic reactions to people. Symptoms can include itchy, watery eyes, sore throat, coughing, dizziness, skin irritation, headaches and fatigue. Molds can also trigger asthma.

Loose plaster and ceiling tiles should be removed so they will not fall on occupants. Remove all furniture, movable articles, swollen doors and window sashes. If water remains in the basement, it should be drained or pumped out as soon as possible and also shovel out the mud.

Walls while still damp should be scrubbed with a stiff brush to remove all mud. The insides of the walls damaged with water should be washed with a mild soap and rinsed with clean water. It's important to let all areas dry before installing new insulation.

Wet carpeting and rugs should be removed from and disinfected within 24 hours. Carpets should be dried out and then disinfected with a detergent solution, but padding may need to be replaced because it's difficult to completely dry. Homeowners with vinyl flooring over wood subfloors should remove the vinyl if water bubbles appear. The subfloor should be disinfected and allowed to dry.

Do not attempt to make any repairs until everything has been disinfected and thoroughly dried. The opening of closet and cupboard doors and removing drawers from furniture will aid drying. Keeping windows opened will allow for air movement to help dry out the space.