

Water Emergency Do's and Don'ts

Do's

- Remove as much excess water as possible by mopping and blotting.
- Wipe excess water from furniture. Remove lamps and other items from table tops.
- Remove and prop wet upholstery and pillow cushions to dry evenly.
- Lift draperies off carpet.
- Separate wood furniture legs from wet carpet by placing aluminum foil or wood blocks under the legs.
- Remove colored rugs from wall-to-wall carpeting
- Remove paintings and other objects and place in a dry area.
- Open drawers, closet doors, and luggage to help drying efforts.
- Remove wet fabrics and dry as soon as possible. Hang furs and leather to dry.
- Damp books should be spread out to dry.
- Gather other loose items from floor (toys, etc.)

Don'ts

- Do not turn up heat in areas affected by water damage. Excessive heat will promote bacteria and mildew growth (see temperature influences).
- Do not use an ordinary household vacuum to remove water.
- Do not use TVs or other household appliances on wet carpet, wet floors, and especially not on wet concrete.
- Do not enter rooms with standing water if electricity is still on.
- Do not turn on ceiling fixtures (lights, fans, etc.) if ceiling is wet. You should not enter rooms where ceilings are sagging from retained water.
- Do not lift carpet. Wait for professional help as lifting the carpet incorrectly could cause shrinkage.
- Do not hesitate to call for professional help. Damage from the water and bacteria growth can begin within hours.

Temperature

Do's

- Use dehumidifiers if outside temperature is above 60 degrees.
- If it is cool outside, leave heat running if possible. If it is warm outside, leave air conditioner running if possible.
- Use any available fan (if it is safe to do so) to circulate air and promote drying.

Sewage

Do's

- Stay out of affected areas.
- Call emergency service personnel if the situation is life threatening.
- Treat all bodily fluids as if they are contaminated.
- Turn off the HVAC system if there is sewage damage.

Don'ts

- Attempt cleanup of any kind.
- Touch or handle items that might be contaminated with bodily fluids.
- Eat, drink, smoke, apply cosmetics or handle contact lenses in affected areas.
- If exposed to harmful waste, OSHA recommends a post-exposure medical evaluation. Consult your local health department or physician.