



Guidelines for Response to Clean Water Damage within 48 Hours to Prevent Mold Growth

Water-Damaged Material	Actions
Books and papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For non-valuable items, discard books and papers. • Photocopy valuable/important items, discard originals. • Freeze (in frost-free freezer or meat locker) or freeze-dry.
Carpet and backing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove water with water extraction vacuum. • Check to make sure underflooring is dry; dry underflooring if necessary. • Reduce ambient humidity levels with dehumidifier. • Accelerate drying process with fans.
Ceiling tiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discard and replace.
Cellulose insulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discard and replace.
Concrete or cinder block surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove water with water extraction vacuum. • Accelerate drying process with dehumidifiers, fans, and/or heaters.
Fiberglass insulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discard and replace.
Hard surface, porous flooring (Linoleum, ceramic tile, vinyl)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacuum or damp wipe with water and mild detergent and allow drying. • Scrub surface, if necessary. • Check to make sure underflooring is dry; dry underflooring if necessary.
Non-porous, hard surfaces (Plastics, metals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacuum or damp wipe with water and mild detergent and allow drying. • Scrub if necessary.
Upholstered furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove water with water extraction vacuum. • Accelerate drying process with dehumidifiers, fans, and/or heaters. • May be difficult to completely dry within 48 hours.
Wallboard (Drywall and gypsum board)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be dried in place if there is no obvious swelling and the seams are intact. If not, remove, discard, and replace. • Ventilate the wall cavity, if possible.
Window drapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow laundering or cleaning instructions recommended by the manufacturer.

Wood surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove moisture immediately; use dehumidifiers and fans for drying.• Treated or finished wood surfaces may be cleaned with mild detergent and clean water and allowed to dry.• Wet paneling should be pried away from wall for drying.
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These guideline are for damaged caused by clean water. If you know or suspect that the water source is contaminated with sewage, chemical or biological contaminants, contact Environmental Health and Safety immediately. If mold growth has occurred or materials have been wet for more than 48 hours, refer to "Mold Remediation Guidelines" in the Mold Response Plan Policy.

*Adapted and modified from the U.S.E.P.A "Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings."