
Key Facts About Flood Recovery
(continued from previous page)

Walls, hard-surfaced floors, and many other household surfaces should be cleaned with soap and water and disinfected with a solution of 1 cup of bleach to five gallons of water. Wash all linens and clothing in hot water, or dry clean them. For items that cannot be washed or dry cleaned, such as mattresses and upholstered furniture, air dry them in the sun and then spray them thoroughly with a disinfectant. Steam clean all carpeting. If there has been a backflow of sewage into the house, wear rubber boots and waterproof gloves during cleanup. Remove and discard contaminated household materials that cannot be disinfected, such as wallcoverings, cloth, rugs, and drywall. Also see the CDC fact sheet "After a Hurricane or Flood: Cleanup of Flood Water" (www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/cleanupwater.asp). Additional guidance is available from the Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/flood.html and the Federal Emergency Management Agency at www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/whatshouldidoafter.shtm.

See Also...

- Reentering Your Flooded Home (www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/reenter.asp)
- Protect Yourself from Mold (www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/protect.asp)

For more information, visit www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods
or call CDC at 800-CDC-INFO (English and Spanish) or 888-232-6348 (TTY).

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