

Things needed for cleanup include:

**Water pumps**-(must be the sump pump type that can be submerged in water if you are turning on and leaving to pump water out. Also some new wet/dry vacs come with a water pump built in, you hook up a garden hose and can move water, but they can't be left unattended.)

**Masks**-respirators may not be necessary though some like them, all must be **N95** rated

**5 gallon buckets**

**Rubber work gloves**

**Anti-Bacteria/Microbial Chemical**-mixes at 2 oz. per gallon of water

**Garden sprayer**-back pack version works best

**Flat shovels**

**Flashlights**

**Wheel barrows**

**Large yard trash bags**

**Brooms**

**Heavy duty fans**

**commercial dehumidifiers**-there are companies that will come in town if these are needed and rent them out to the local rental centers and in turn they will rent them out to others

Anything that gets wet will need removed. Different counties will have different codes but typically everything down to the stud walls and slab or frame floors will need removed and disinfected. Again, check with local authorities, most require that all electrical that was under water, including wiring, breaker panels, switches, outlets, boxes, etc, be removed, discarded and replaced. Everything has to be accessed to be able to get rid of the mold (using bleach) and then sprayed to keep it from returning (borax). You basically have it looking like a framed house under construction. Only drywall that was wet needs removed, rule of thumb is to go up to the next 4' mark as this should be the tape line of the original installation. Drywall wicks, so just because it wasn't under water, doesn't mean that it didn't get wet! Insulation, wiring and outlets, cabinets, anything porous, must be removed. For this you will need:

**Wonder bars**

**Pry bars**

**Hammers**

**Sledge hammers**

**Screw guns**

Anything that is porous will need to be removed and disposed of. Anything that isn't porous needs taken out of the water and it too needs disinfected. Depending on how severe the home was damaged, things that they are keeping will need to be stored where mold can't get to it after it has been disinfected. Common mistake is that they grab all they can and take it off site and store everything together to sift through later. This is a problem because you will introduce contamination into an uncontaminated space, which will contaminate everything else. Everything must be disinfected before it is moved if it

was in any type of water. Pray that the sewers don't back up into the homes as that makes things even worse.

**Boots**-over the over the ankle work boots that are **water proof** are best, tied tight. Waders will work as long as the water isn't higher than the boot

**Jeans** work best instead of shorts to help keep the muck from getting on your skin, some also wear long sleeve shirts, as the cleanup progresses I change to shorts!

Everyone should have **tetanus shots** sometime during the past 7 years even though they say they're good to 10 years. If the flooding is bad enough the health department will usually do this for free, though sometimes they will only do it if you don't have insurance

Lots of **water and some sports drinks**, more water than the other

**Snacks** (my wife told me not to forget that!)

**Flood Relief Buckets/kits**-this is a good project for someone to put together, some of the bigger relief agencies will be doing this and have some on hand to pass out. Kits include rubber gloves, bleach, clothesline and pins, rags, masks, bug spray, disinfectant soap (dish soap), disinfectant spray, etc