

Recommended Flood Cleanup Procedures

- This method is widely used by professionals who taught us. We cannot guarantee any results whether you do it or we do it, this is just suggested procedures and Calvary Relief and their affiliates are in no way responsible for mold or bacteria growth or anything associated with mold or bacteria growth in any home done by us, others or you.
- Use masks that are rated N95 or above.
- If only part of the home was flooded, the rest of the home should be sealed off from the affected areas as much as possible using heavy plastic, etc.
- Remove all furniture, etc that has been flooded. If you are putting the debris on the curb, you must separate construction material, chemicals and electronics into three different sections.
- Water heaters, refrigerators, freezers and some dishwashers have non sealed compartments that house insulation. If these were in water, they will have mold and will need to be discarded.
- Any wooden furniture will have cracks in the paint, varnish, etc and water will have entered into these cracks and will reach the unfinished wood and house mold and will either need to be thrown out or taken to a place that strips and dips them professionally.
- If there is carpet, it needs removed first
- Wood, laminate, tile, linoleum, etc will need to be removed in the order that it was installed. In other words, if the flooring is beside the baseboard like carpet, it gets removed first. If it is under the baseboard, the baseboard gets removed first.
- Paneling will need to be discarded.
- The water level of the flood inside the house determines the amount of drywall you will be removing. Add 2' to the water level and because of drywall tape, mud, cutting, etc, it is easier and cheaper in the long run to go to the next 4' level. For instance, 16" flood level, plus 24" equals 38", go to 4' level, plus 1/2" as drywall is not installed on the floor.
- If the water level reached any electrical wiring, most counties/cities will also require that this be removed and discarded. This includes but is not limited to outlets, switches, fixtures, electric panels, etc. Check with your local authorities about this, wires corrode when they get wet, especially with black water. We recommend discarding this.

- Remove any electrical plates, pictures that are on a wall board that is being removed. Some of these things can be cleaned/saved so remove accordingly.
- Remove all baseboard, interior doors, door and window trim and door jambs along with exterior door inside door trim. You can save door handles but new doors come with hinges so no need to save them.
- Any cabinet that was in water will need to be removed. If the cabinet has a counter and it didn't get flooded, the counter top can be saved, though sometimes they are installed in such a way that it is impossible to remove without destroying it. Sinks and faucets can also be saved. Cabinet door and drawer pulls can be saved.
- Go around the entire house with a tape measure and a pencil and mark the drywall at the height you will be cutting, in the example above, 48 1/2".
- If the drywall is being removed to the ceiling, then score the corner where the wall and ceiling meet with a utility knife to keep the line straight.
- Take a chalk line and mark all the walls using the measured marks from above.
- Depending on the items left in the house, size, etc, it is easiest to use a circular saw or sawzall to cut the line. If creating too much dust is an issue, then use drywall and/or utility knives to cut the chalk line, this is usually the preferred method.
- Begin removing the drywall. It is best to have a wheelbarrow or trash can next to you to just put the drywall in. This way you won't have to lay it down and then pick it up again to take out to the curb. Once you have one side of a wall done, you can hammer out the other side from the back.
- If the bath area was done with Durarock/Cement board, it can be disinfected and doesn't have to be removed as long as you can clean and disinfect at least one side of the cement board, otherwise you may have to remove the tub, shower, tile, cement board and discard it.
- Remove the insulation that was wet plus at least a couple of inches. This will often times be lower than the level you are removing drywall at.
- Go around and remove all of the nails/screws that were holding the drywall, wood trim, cabinets, etc

- Sweep up all of the floors. There is no reason to keep sweeping up the floor until you are at this stage because you will just keep getting it dirty.
- Using a good shop vacuum, vacuum all of the wall areas, inside every crack and crevice of the walls, on each side of the two by four studs, on the floors etc. The house needs to be as clean as it possibly can so that it can dry quickly and then be disinfected properly. The vacuum should have a HEPA filter installed in it.
- Use fans and dehumidifiers to dry the home. Commercial equipment available at rental stores will do the best job.
- The affected areas should be sealed off as much as possible using plastic, closing door/windows, etc.
- If your home has a crawl space that is not finished such as dirt, rock, etc, you will need to make sure that is as dry and clean as possible and then install a vapor barrier over the dirt/stone. Use at least a 6mil thick plastic, black is recommended as it is supposed to last longer. This can be picked up at a local hardware store such as Lowes and usually comes in 100' boxes. If you don't seal up the outside elements including the crawl space from the affected areas, when drying you will essentially be drying everywhere and it will take forever, if at all to dry your home to the correct level.
- If it is cold, you may need to use heat to dry out your wood. Especially when the temperatures get below freezing or in high humidity areas in the winter, fans and dehumidifiers alone will not work properly. We use propane heaters with electric blowers, but be careful as there will be a risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning when using these.
- The materials you are treating need to have 10% or lower moisture levels before you can spray chemical. You can purchase an inexpensive moisture level meter at most hardware stores such as Lowes.
- Using a chemical only found at janitorial supply shops such as Milgo-Plus, mix properly, usually at least two ounces to each gallon of water, but read the instructions for the most potent mix, fill a garden type sprayer with chemical and water. We double the recommended amount and use an airless paint sprayer for best penetration. We do not use any product that has chlorine in it such as Shock-Wave. This is because chlorine is corrosive to metal products found in building materials and is very harmful to your skin and lungs should you come

in contact with them. There are many good alternatives such as Milgo-Plus that work just as well. We also don't use premixed chemicals, they are too expensive and you can't be sure of the mixture and/or increase the mixture if you don't do it yourself.

- Mold causes a stain on anything it comes in contact with. What we are killing is the mold and the bacteria that causes the mold to grow. Only products with chlorine in them will remove the stain. You can also scrub all of the wood that is accessible with soap, sandpaper, etc to get rid of the stain. We don't worry about the stain as it is not harmful if the wood was treated correctly.
- You will need to wear a respirator, goggles, plastic gloves, etc to protect yourself.
- Spray all the wood in the house that is left, wood frame, cracks, crevices, etc. Completely soak the wood so that the chemical will soak into the wood to kill the mold and the bacteria that causes the mold to grow.
- No one can be in the home for at least 12 hours and preferably 24 hours once the spraying begins. Also, keep animals away.
- Bare, non-stained/painted concrete floors will also need cleaned and bleach and water will work for this.
- Once the chemical dries and the wood has a moisture content of lower than 10%, the home is ready for reconstruction. Do not trap in moisture, even good water without proper ventilation can again cause mold to grow.
- For more information you can contact us directly, www.CalvaryRelief.com
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