

### **Precautionary steps while entering homes**

- Check for building stability before entry - sticking doors at the top may indicate a ceiling at risk of collapse.
- Take pictures of damage throughout the building and around the property. Assess stability of plaster and drywall - any bulging or swelling ceilings indicate damage that should be removed. Press upward on drywall ceilings. If nail heads appear, drywall will need to be re-nailed but can be saved.
- Clean and disinfect hot air, air conditioning and ventilation ducts before use to avoid spread of airborne germs and mold spores.
- Check appliance wires for missing or disintegrated wire insulation.
- Ground all appliances with a three-pronged plugs.
- Dry and oil all appliance motors.
- Two weeks after flood water subsides, drain wells, sanitize well and water lines and test water.
- Check foundation for any loose or missing blocks, bricks, stones or mortar.
- Test water before using.
- Remove wet drywall and insulation well above the high water mark.
- Clean, disinfect and dry all wall cavities that came into contact with floodwater.
- Use fans and sunlight to dry out interior spaces.
- Remove all wet carpets, curtains and fabrics. Allow to air dry completely.
- Wash and disinfect all surfaces, including cupboard interiors, with a solution of 1/2 cup bleach to 2 gallons of water.
- Clean and disinfect concrete surfaces using a mixture of TSP (trisodium phosphate) and water. Mix according to manufacturer's directions and apply to entire surface.
- Control standing water and mosquitoes by applying a larvae control product to standing water or a film of vegetable oil to the surface.
- Wash down and disinfect all doors.
- To avoid warping, dry all wood doors by removing from hinges, laying flat with wood shims between and allowing to air dry completely.
- Remove all knobs and hardware first and disinfect.
- Clean and disinfect windows, sills and tracks.
- Remove sliding doors and windows before cleaning and disinfecting the sliders and the tracks.

- Remove wallpaper and coverings that came into contact with floodwaters.
- Don't repaint or repair until drying is complete and humidity levels in the home have dropped.

[http://flash.org/peril\\_inside.php?id=66](http://flash.org/peril_inside.php?id=66)

**Use extreme caution when entering buildings.**

- Wear sturdy shoes. The most common injury following a disaster is cut feet.
- Use ONLY battery-powered lighting. Flammable material may be present.
- Look for fire hazards (such as damaged gas lines, flooded electrical circuits, or submerged furnaces).
- Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. If possible turn off the gas at the outside main valve. Call the gas company.
- Report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.
- Check for electrical system damage (sparks, broken or frayed wires, or the smell of burning insulation). Turn off the electricity at the main circuit breaker if you can reach it without stepping in water.
- Examine walls, floors, doors, windows, and ceilings for risk of collapsing.
- Watch out for animals that might have entered with the floodwaters.
- Let the building air out to remove foul odors or escaping gas.

<http://www.susquehannafloodforecasting.org/before-during-after.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/reenter.html>