



FLOOD CLEANUP SAFETY TIPS

The North Dakota Safety Council offers the following tips to help keep you safe during your flood cleanup efforts. When re-entering your home, please take precaution and beware of mold and electrical dangers. To ensure your family's safety, have your home electrical, heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems checked. Do not re-enter your home unless cleared by city officials.

CLEANUP OF FLOOD WATER

Water Cleanup

- Have your onsite waste-water system professionally inspected and serviced if you expect damages.
- If you are operating equipment in wet areas, be sure to wear rubber boots.
- If you have electricity and an electrician has determined that it's safe to turn it on, use a "wet-dry" shop vacuum, an electric-powered water transfer pump, or sump pump to remove standing water.
- If weather permits, open windows and doors of the house to aid in the drying-out process.
- Use fans and dehumidifiers to remove excess moisture. Fans should be placed at a window or door to blow the air outwards so not to spread the mold.

Furniture and Surface Cleaning

- Wear rubber boots, rubber gloves and goggles during cleanup of affected areas.
- Keep children and pets out of the affected areas until cleanup is completed.
- Remove and discard items that cannot be washed and disinfected. (*Such as mattresses, carpeting, rugs, cosmetics, drywall, insulation, etc.*)
- Wash all clothes worn during cleanup in hot water and detergent. These clothes should be washed separately from non-contaminated items.
- 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.

For more tips on cleaning and sanitizing with bleach, please visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/bleach.asp>

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MOLD

After floods, standing water can contribute to the growth of mold in homes and other buildings. When you return to your home, be aware that mold may be present and may be a health risk for your family.

Recognizing Mold

You may recognize mold by:

- Sight: Are the walls and ceilings discolored or do they show signs of mold growth or water damage?
- Smell: Do you smell a bad odor, such as musty, earthy smell or a foul stench?

If you notice any of the above signs, please visit the Center for Disease Control website for further tips on protecting yourself from mold. You may visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/> for more safety fact sheets and information.