



Repair Your Property

Take care entering your property after the flood waters have receded. Do not turn on any lights or appliances until a qualified electrician has checked the entire electrical distribution system.





Soft furnishings (bedding, clothes etc)

Mattresses which have been soaked with flood water are generally unusable and should be discarded.

Mud-stained, washable clothing and linen can be cleaned by first brushing off dry mud then repeatedly rinsing in clean cold water. Woollens should be rinsed in luke-warm water.

Quilts and blankets should be cleaned in the same way as woollens, then hang outside to dry in the sun. Electric blankets should not be used until checked by a qualified electrician.

Wet carpets should be removed where possible, as they can become mouldy and may damage wooden flooring. There is a risk that carpets will shrink as they dry.

Furniture

Take furniture outside to dry as soon as practicable. Clean off mud using a soft cloth or hose where necessary then leave to dry in the shade. Remove as many drawers or other moving parts as possible and dry separately.

To remove mildew from wood furniture, scrub with a solution contain 4 to 6 tablespoons of baking soda in 5 litres of water. Rinse thoroughly then dry in the shade. To minimise mildew on upholstery, try to dry upholstered areas as quickly as possible after cleaning. It may be necessary to use an electric fan or heater.

Books and Paper

To limit the amount of mould on paper, separate pages as soon as possible and allow to dry. If you don't have enough time to dry pages immediately, papers can be stored in the freezer and removed when you have time to dry them properly.

Walls and Floors

Concrete and brickwork can generally be cleaned off with detergent and water, without any lasting damage.

Mud may be trapped in wall cavities and sub-floor spaces. It may be necessary to remove floorboards or wall panelling to inspect the cavities. If there is mud present, flush the area out and leave covers off until the cavities are dry.

Asbestos removal

Avoid handling material that may contain asbestos. If you are unsure whether an area contains asbestos fibres, contact a licensed contractor (listed in the Yellow Pages under 'asbestos removal and treatment'). Where a material is suspected or known to contain asbestos, try to keep the material wet and covered in plastic.

