



VILLAGE of SCOTIA
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To the residents affected, please follow these important steps:

After a Flood: The First Steps

Your home has been flooded. Although floodwaters may be down in some areas, many dangers still exist. Here are some things to remember in the days ahead.

- Roads may still be closed because they have been damaged or are covered by water. Barricades have been placed for your protection. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, go another way.
- Keep listening to the radio or trusted internet sites for news about what to do, where to go, or places to avoid.
- Emergency workers will be assisting people in flooded areas. You can help them by staying off the roads and out of the way.
- If you must walk or drive in areas that have been flooded
 - Stay on firm ground. Moving water only 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
 - Flooding may have caused familiar places to change. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways. Flood debris may hide animals and broken bottles, and it's also slippery. Avoid walking or driving through it.
- Play it safe. Additional flooding or flash floods can occur. Listen for local warnings and information. If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, get out immediately and climb to higher ground.

Staying Healthy

A flood can cause emotional and physical stress. You need to look after yourself and your family as you focus on cleanup and repair.

- Rest often and eat well.
- Keep a manageable schedule. Make a list and do jobs one at a time.
- Discuss your concerns with others and seek help. Contact Red Cross for information on emotional support available in your area.

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Cleaning Up and Repairing Your Home

Turn off the electricity at the main breaker or fuse box and unplug all electric appliances through-out your home, even if the power is off in your community. Turn off your main gas supply inside the house even if it's been turned off outside by National Grid, this goes for any propane tanks and appliances if it applies. That way after power is restored to your area, you and your licensed electrician can decide when your home is dry enough to turn power back on and you and your appliance service specialist can determine which appliances need replacement and which ones maybe salvaged. **Please note if your electric meter sock has been removed by National Grid you will need to have your Main Electrical Panel and service drop inspected by a Certified Electrician and documented paper work provided to National Grid in order to re-energize your main electric service panel.**

If you like get a copy of the book *Repairing Your Flooded Home*. It will tell you:

- How to enter your home safely.
- How to protect your home and belongings from further damage.
- How to record damage to support insurance claims and requests for assistance.
- How to check for gas or water leaks and how to have service restored.
- How to clean up appliances, furniture, floors and other belongs.

Repairing Your Flooded Home is available free from the American Red Cross or your state or local emergency manager.

Permits will apply to structural work, heating appliances and plumbing, visit:

<http://www.villageofscotia.org/building.htm>

Getting Help

- The Red Cross can provide you with a cleanup kit: mop, broom, bucket, and cleaning supplies. FEMA if a natural disaster has been declared for your area.
- Contact your insurance agent to discuss claims.
- Listen to your radio and read the local papers for information on assistance that may be provided by the state or federal government/FEMA or other organizations.
- If you hire cleanup or repair contractors, be sure they are qualified to do the job. Be wary of people who drive through neighborhoods offering help in cleaning up or repairing your home. Check references.

After The Flood: Clean Up And Stay Safe

Individuals affected, are urged to begin cleaning up their homes and personal property as soon as they are allowed back to the area. The Building Inspector emphasizes that it is not necessary to wait for an inspection before beginning this process although hazard areas shall be avoided until I or the Fire Dept. have inspected and made a determination.

"We encourage individuals affected by the disaster to remain cautious and return home only when it is safe to do so".
"Property owners should document all losses and damages by taking photos first and making a list, and then begin immediately removing all flood damaged personal property, unless told by your insurance company not to do so."

Before making permanent repairs to your home-such as drywall, structural components, electrical systems, heating appliances or plumbing-make sure you get the proper permits from your local Village Building Dept. This is especially important for those living in a Special Flood Hazard Area to ensure compliance with local floodplain management requirements. See <http://www.villageofscotia.org/building.htm>

"It is important for homeowners to get accurate information from state and local officials in order to protect themselves and their loved ones."

The following precautions are suggestions that residents in flooded areas may want to implement:

- **Confirm the water supply is safe to drink.** Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply has been contaminated by the floodwaters. Remember to carry bottled drinking water and discard any food products that may have come in contact with floodwater.
- **Wear protective clothing.** Protect yourself during cleanup by wearing boots, gloves and masks. Clean and disinfect everything floodwater contacted.
- **Ventilate your home.** Open all doors and windows to allow air to circulate and dry out your home. Dehumidify as soon as possible after a flood.
- **Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pit and leaching systems as soon as possible.** Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- **Make a list of lost or damaged items.** Be sure to include their age and value, and if possible, have receipts for those items available.
- **Prevent mold growth.** Wash all surface areas in the house that came in contact with floodwater. Disinfect and wipe surfaces dry with paper towels to minimize bacterial contamination.
- **Isolate any moldy objects.** Seal moldy trash in plastic bags and remove them immediately. Objects you can save should be dried or frozen as soon as possible. Freezing inactivates mold.

After a Flood: Additional STEPS

Floodwaters affect a house in 3 ways:

- The water damages materials. Wallboard will disintegrate if it stays wet too long; wood can swell, warp, or rot; electrical parts can short out, malfunction, and cause fires or shock.
- Mud, silt, and unknown contaminants in the water not only get everything dirty; they are also unhealthy.
- Dampness promotes the growth of mildew, a mold or fungus that can grow on everything.

The following steps will help you get started in dealing with these problems. Please do the steps in order.

Lower the Humidity

Everything will dry more quickly and clean more easily if you can reduce the humidity and stop the rot and mildew.

Open up the house. If the humidity outside is lower than it is indoors, and if the weather permits, open all the doors and windows to exchange the moist indoor air for drier outdoor air. When temperatures drop at night, an open house is warmer and will draw moisture indoors. At night, and at other times when the humidity is higher outdoors, close up the house.

Open closet and cabinet doors. Remove drawers to let air circulate. Drawers may stick because of swelling. Don't try to force them. Help them dry by opening up the back of the cabinet so air can get into it.

Use fans. Fans help to move the air and dry out your home. Do not use central air conditioning or the furnace blower if the ducts were under water. They will blow out dirty air that might contain contaminants. Clean or hose out the ducts first.

Run dehumidifiers to reduce the moisture, especially in closed-up areas.

Use desiccants. Desiccants are materials that absorb moisture and can be used in drying closets or other closed areas where air cannot move through. Desiccants like those listed below are usually available at hardware, grocery, or drug stores.

- Chemical dehumidifier packs used for drying boats and damp closets.
- Cat litter made of clay.
- Calcium chloride pellets (used to melt ice in the winter). Hang pellets in a pillow case, nylon stocking, or other porous bag. Put a bucket underneath to catch dripping water. Close the closet or area being dried. Be careful. *Calcium chloride can burn your skin.* It will also make the air salty, so do not use this product near computers or other delicate equipment.

Call a contractor. There are contractors who specialize in drying out flooded buildings. Look in the yellow pages under Fire and Water Damage Restoration or under Dehumidifying. Be careful about contractors who inflate prices after a disaster. Be patient. Drying your house could take several weeks. Until your house is reasonably dry, damage caused by mildew and decay will continue. The musty odor will stay forever if the house is not dried out well.

Sort Contents and Discard Debris

You have 3 types of contents. They should go to 3 different places:

- Items you want to save
- Items to be thrown out
- Garbage

Things you want to save

Move things you want to save to a safe, dry place, such as the second story or outside. The longer they sit in water, the more damaged they become. Don't leave wood furniture in the sun because it will warp as it dries.

Things you don't want to save

Put things you don't want to save outside to dry until the adjuster comes to confirm your losses. Take pictures or videotapes and list each item for the record.

Garbage

Get rid of food and anything else that could spoil or go bad immediately. Don't let garbage build up. Garbage piles will cause yet another health hazard by attracting animals and insects. If your insurance adjuster has not come, tell your agent or adjuster that you need to get rid of potential health hazards. That person will tell you how to make sure that your losses are covered. Then throw the stuff out, preferably in sealed plastic garbage bags. Dispose of discarded items properly. Do not burn or bury them. There will usually be more frequent garbage pickups after a flood. Your local newspapers or local TV and radio stations will have announcements about trash pickup schedules and drop-off sites. □

For more tips on cleaning up and keeping your family safe, visit www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/, www.minnesotarecovers.org or the CDC's flood website at www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/.

FEMA coordinates the Federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of safe.

This information has been provided to you by your Building Inspector/Flood Administrator from FEMA websites.