



INFORMATION SOURCED FROM



New York Environmental
Law & Justice Project

SAFE FLOOD CLEAN-UP

WHAT TO DO

1 Check for Structural Damage

Before you start cleaning: Carefully check for loose power lines and gas leaks. If there is standing water next to the outside walls of your home, **don't go in**.

2 Asbestos!

If your house was built before the 1970s or you think there may be asbestos, **don't go in**. **Asbestos can cause major health problems including: lung cancer; mesothelioma, and asbestosis.**

3 When in Doubt, Throw it Out

— WHAT TO THROW AWAY

Throw anything away that was wet or is still wet Food, cosmetics, medical supplies, stuffed animals, baby toys, mattresses, pillows, foam rubber, large carpets, carpet padding, upholstered couches and chairs, books, paper products.

— WHAT'S SAFE TO KEEP

Dishes, Electronics, Non-rusted metal

4 Beware of Mold

Mold is one of the most dangerous effects of flooding.

Failure to remove ALL of the mold presents a serious long-term health risk. Until dry, mildew and mold will continue to grow, cause health problems and damage your house. A musty odor means there is still mold.

— TO REMOVE MOLD

MIX 3/4 white vinegar with 1/4 water — Use only on hard surfaces. Soak the area, let it sit, then scrub. **NOTHING** will get to the mold growing inside of wallboard, ceiling tile, etc. you must remove them.

5 Dry It Out

Open up the house, closets and cabinet doors. Use cat litter made of clay -- hang it in a pillow case, nylon stocking, or other porous bag. The longer your house is wet, the more mold will develop, posing very serious health risks.

6 Clean Up

Start cleaning walls, floors and shelves at the bottom or where the worst damage was. Do NOT try to "disinfect". Give cleaner time to work before you mop or sponge it up. Tackle one room at a time. A two bucket approach is most efficient: use one bucket for rinse water and the other for the cleaner.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Flashlights

Batteries

Cleaning Supplies***

Brooms, brushes, sponges

Buckets

Rags

Trash bags

Dust Mask (N95 Respirator)

Rubber Gloves

Shovel

Crow Bar

DON'T USE BLEACH!!!

Chlorine bleach does not kill the mold — it will not penetrate porous surfaces where much of your mold problem resides. The water portion of the bleach solution will, however, which means that the hidden mold is not killed, but actually fed. **This may cause the problem to actually get worse instead of better.** Bleach is alkaline, you need an acidic cleaner.

WARNING: Never run a portable generator inside! It releases Carbon Monoxide and is fatal.

Download the Red Cross/FEMA booklet: <http://is.gd/OBxjit>

DONATE SUPPLIES AND GET INVOLVED
gowanusstudio.org/relief