

## Clean Up

For large clean ups, call a cleaning service. Your insurance carrier may have suggestions on which service to use or you can look in the Yellow Pages under "Water Damage Restoration" or "House Cleaning." Google "Water Damage Restoration" to find cleaning services on the Internet.

For smaller backups you can clean yourself use a solution of two tablespoons chlorine bleach in one gallon of water. To reduce health hazards, thoroughly clean the areas affected by the backup as soon as possible. The Minnesota Department of Health suggests the following:

- Use outside air to dry your home.
- Open windows and doors and use an exhaust fan to remove moist air from the house.
- If available, use a room de-humidifier and empty it often.
- If your basement is flooded, begin pumping the water in stages--about one-third per day. Make sure the level of the floodwater is below the level of the basement floor. If not, do not pump the basement all at once because the saturated soil could cause the basement walls to collapse.
- Wear a mask to prevent inhaling contaminated dust, especially if you have allergies. Consult your physician if you have questions.
- Open, clean, decontaminate, and thoroughly dry cavities in walls, floors, and ceilings.
- Allow walls to dry from the inside out.
- Remove moisture and debris from all surfaces and get surface materials dry within 24-48 hours.
- Release any water or mud that has been trapped in walls, ceilings or floor cavities.
- Remove all interior wall finishing materials and insulation.
- Dispose of any wet insulation, most plaster, wallboard and paneling.
- Dispose of mattresses and pillows.
- Discard any opened food or packaged foods that are not waterproof. Commercially canned foods can be salvaged if the labels are removed and the cans thoroughly washed. The cans should then be disinfected by wiping the entire surface with a laundry bleach and water mixture and rinsed in clear water. Home-canned foods require additional care. After the jars containing home-canned foods have been washed and disinfected, the food should be boiled for ten minutes before using.

If you think you might have materials containing asbestos in your home, call the Minnesota Department of Health at (651) 201-4620.

***If any materials are still wet or moist after 24-48 hours, you should assume they have mold growing on them.***