

Disaster Recovery Information Resources



HANG ON! You're anxious to get things back to normal, but think about the possibility of another flood. Would you invest a little now if you could get back home faster? Get back to work sooner? and Have a home that's easier to restore and sell?? **YOU CAN!**

Choose any of these tips, and if there is a **NEXT TIME . . .**
clean-up will be easier • less damage to repair • avoid the headaches and hassles

For a healthier-home recovery...

- **Keep the walls open** till they are completely dry. Trapped moisture causes mold to grow. It's bad for your health.
- **Remove vinyl wallpaper** from your walls. Vinyl wallpaper traps moisture in the wall.
- Caution: If there is mold on the back side, use an N-95 (or higher) respirator to protect yourself from the mold spores.

Do you need a permit? Remember to check with local officials to see if you need a permit before starting your restoration.

6 TIPS for restoring Louisiana homes to reduce damage in future floods

- 1 Move electrical outlets up.** Put any receptacles left "below flood" level on circuits separate from the "above flood" circuits. Install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) on them, either a GFCI circuit breaker or one GFCI receptacle in the circuit.
- 2 Replace gypsum wall board on the lower part of the wall with flood resistant material.** Leave a gap at the bottom, above the sill plate to allow for drainage. Cover the gap with a wide baseboard. Flood resistant materials include wood paneling, marine grade plywood. Install them so they can be easily removed when floods threaten, or after a flood, for cleaning.
- 3 Stop the wicking.** If you must use gypsum wall board, leave a gap between the lower wall board and the upper wall board. Cover the gap with chair rail molding.
- 4 Choose insulation for exterior walls that you can protect (or easily replace).** FEMA recommends the use of rigid foam board insulation in walls up to six inches above the established level of flooding. Fiberglass batts and rigid foam boards can be removed from the lower wall before or after the flood. If you use batts or other fibrous insulation in the lower wall, separate it from insulation in the upper wall to prevent wicking.
Caution: Closed-cell spray foam is very flood-resistant but may cause problems in some walls. Check with a professional before replacing fiberglass with closed-cell spray foam.
- 5 Put your water heater, air conditioner, washer and dryer on platforms.** Replace a range/oven combination with a cook top and wall oven.
- 6 Use a waterproof floor covering.** Choices include ceramic or porcelain tile, brick, solid vinyl flooring with chemical-set adhesive; stained concrete; terrazzo; solid wood planks.

Get these tips and more at LSUAgCenter.com/FloodSmart

Partner contact information.

Contact your local LSU AgCenter Extension office. There's one in every parish.

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