

Flood Recovery Information

Getting your structure gutted and drying is your NUMBER ONE priority at the moment, don't worry about the rebuilding process...get it drying!

Equipment and Chemicals to Purchase ASAP (You can order all on AMAZON!) (Keep All Receipts for Government Reimbursement if you qualify):

- Dehumidifier: <http://a.co/i4i7mvN>
- Blowers or Air Movers: <http://a.co/776uq7D>
- Spiral Saw or Something Similar <http://a.co/aiXFpdA>
 - This will be used to cut out sheetrock and used to cut out and put up sheetrock.
- Moisture Meter: <http://a.co/5XKeXKT>
 - This will be used to test the moisture in your studs, you want it below 15% before you start the rebuilding process.
- Stera-Fab: <http://a.co/4dzzvhz>
 - This is a kill on contact chemical that you will want to spray as soon as you get the studs exposed. Spray multiple times in all areas. It has a strong alcohol smell...this is what hospitals use to kill infections, etc.
- Bora-Care with Mold-Care: <http://a.co/7Kfw3vr>
 - Spray this on all the studs/wood after the structure is dried. **This chemical is POTENT and WILL BURN YOUR SKIN so wear the necessary Protective Equipment when spraying.**
 - **GOOGLES** <http://a.co/5e6WOME>
 - **SUIT** <http://a.co/eyAAz8x>
 - **HALF FACE RESPIRATOR** <http://a.co/bwBYDy4>
- 4 Gallon Backpack Sprayer: <http://a.co/16hN9rC>
- Electrical Voltage Tester: <http://a.co/cFZ4JCK>
- Flat Shovel, Wheel Barrow, Contractor Size Trash Bags, Push Broom, Various Hand Tools like screw drivers, hammers, flat bars, masks, gloves, box cutters, nail pullers.

Things to Think About:

- Take lots of photos with your phone of your structure, water line on a window, types of contents, flooring, finishes, etc. This will be for FEMA (Individual Assistance and Flood Insurance) and SBA.
 - Start gathering these documents:
 - Proof you lived at the residence: utility bill or driver's license
 - Proof you own the property: tax bill or mortgage statement
 - If declared a National Disaster then FEMA will provide individual assistance for qualifying counties up to \$33,000.
 - SBA will provide low interest long term loans as well, we got \$71,000 at 1.5% interest for 24 years.
 - Storm chasers with cleanup crews will come from all over charging outrageous amounts of money to gut and clean your structure. Be Careful!
 - Contractors, even some reputable ones, will rip people off, use sub-contractors you trust or recommended to you by a trustworthy person. Help is on the way!
 - Doors and Cabinets will be a huge backup/delay in the rebuild process, if you want the same cabinets as before then pull measurements and right them down, take photos and get a reputable cabinet shop secured soon after demo.
 - There is no such thing as a mold certificate. The best test to have done is an air quality test.
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GET TO WORK!

It is a sprint to get your house drying then it is a marathon to get it rebuilt!

1. Try to establish your HVAC (Air Conditioning) system as soon as possible. Make this a priority if you have power. Your HVAC is one of the best drying tools you have. When you get your HVAC running, put it on a setting where it will run nonstop and close up all windows/doors and run a dehumidifier nonstop.
 - a. Dehumidifier: Put the dehumidifier in a tub and remove the cap/plug from the back so that water just drains into your tub and it never shuts off. Otherwise it will shut off until you empty the pan. Don't dehumidify with doors/windows open, you won't gain anything.
2. If you are unable to get your HVAC running then open up all doors and windows. Run fans/blowers if you are able to utilizing generators, setup the air movers so that you generate a flow through your house. Set it up in a window blowing out to pull air through the house.
3. **If you have solid countertops like granite or quartz that you want to save, call a company right now to have them come remove them and store them properly at your house on an A Frame.**
4. Get ALL contents that flooded out of the house but don't throw it all away. You will be overwhelmed and feel like you're at the end of a bad move to a new house where you just start throwing stuff away but don't. If you want to keep it then keep it...outside...let it dry then when the time is right try to restore it. There were a lot of items I threw away but I wish I would have kept.
 - a. Furniture: anything that is wood can be refinished and restored. If it is fake wood then probably not. Cloth furniture will have to go if it soaked up a lot of water, if just a little bit of water then dry it out in the sun and clean it later.
 - b. Clothes can be washed but now is a good time to get rid of the stuff you don't wear 😊
 - c. Power Tools and Equipment: these can be dried and cleaned and run again. I had power tools, lawn mower, back pack blowers, generators, etc go under water and now run again. Don't throw them away.
 - d. Pictures can be restored. Dry them out.
 - e. Dishes can be cleaned or steamed clean.
5. Start demoing:
 - a. Depending on how much water was in your structure you will demo everything down to the studs. This is a helpful guide:
 - i. Less than 18" of Water: Demo up 24 ½"
 - ii. More than 18" of Water: Demo up 48 ½"
 - iii. More than 48" of Water: Demo up to the ceiling if you don't have crown molding, if you have crown molding then up to 3" below the crown.

- b. Remove all insulation and sheetrock on every wall.
 - c. If water was above your electrical outlets then remove all of them. Remember to test for voltage before removing.
 - d. Remove all door and cabinet hardware (this can be used again if you want)
 - e. Remove doors, if they are solid wood or metal doors then you can reuse..if they are hollow core then you will need to replace.
 - f. Remove Appliances: Test the appliances if you have power and you can probably clean and keep them. I wish I would have kept my refrigerator. I was able to keep my oven and stove.
 - g. Cabinets: you will have to make the decision on how much you remove. You may just need to remove the lower cabinets, some people cut out the bottom of the cabinet and back of cabinet, dried it out then went back with a 1'4" sheet of wood. I removed all lower cabinets under 48" including my island, mostly because I had wood flood under the island. Remember, you can just replace doors if you need.
 - h. Fixtures: remove all plumbing, electrical, towel holders, etc. You can keep, clean, and reuse all of these.
 - i. Flooring: remove all carpet and possibly wood/tile floor. Some people kept their tile floors and just cleaned them, I demoed mine and my wood floor even though it wasn't
6. Start Drying and Spraying: setup air movers and move around based on Moisture Readings. You want the moisture readings below 15% everywhere before you start rebuilding. Don't rush or you will pay for it later.
- a. Spray the Stera Fab as soon as you expose the studs to kill any existing bacterias.
 - b. Spray Bora Care with Mold Care when it is dry. Read the label and wear the necessary safety equipment.
 - c. If you don't feel comfortable spraying these then contact your local Pest Control company and they will come spray. All Pest Control companies will now be in the Mold Remediation business.

I am sure there are items that I didn't address. You are welcome to email me scottbelgard@gmail.com with any questions you have. Please share this with whomever you wish. There are brighter days ahead, I can testify to that and encourage you to stay the course.