

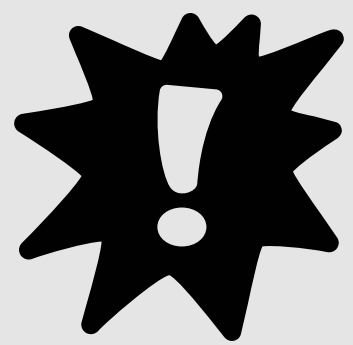
THE FIRST 24 HOURS

AFTER THE HURRICANE

After the waters subsides & home access is restored ...

SAFETY FIRST!

Check for structural damage before entering your home. Have a working flashlight. Disconnect water & electricity - even if it's "off". Don't want to risk mixing water & electricity. Wear gloves and boots. Know there may be nasty chemicals lurking in standing water.



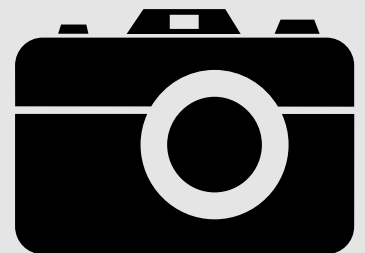
CONTACT INSURANCE



In addition to contacting your insurance carrier, contact FEMA. Start a claim and inquire about what possible relief may be available to you.

DOCUMENT DAMAGE

Take photos of any floodwater in your home. Takes pic of each room affected by water from 4 or more angles. Get shots of personal items damaged as well.

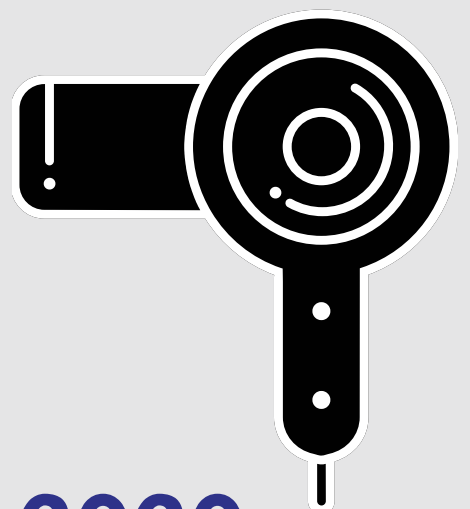


DRY IT OUT

Remove wet carpet and pads - remove wet wall insulation - open doors and windows to ventilate the space - open doors, drawers, and cabinets - use fans and run dehumidifiers - remove appliances that were submerged

CLEAN & DISINFECT

Mud left from flood waters can contain sewage and harmful chemicals. Toss any item that cannot be disinfected.



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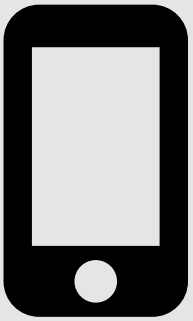
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After the waters subsides & home access is restored ...

A PHOTO MAY BE WORTH A

THOUSAND DOLLARS

Images come into sharp focus in a flood claim

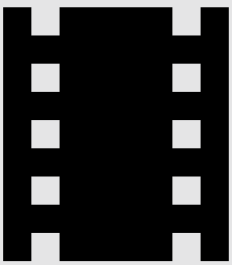


BUT FIRST, LEMME TAKE A SELFIE!

No really. Before you rip out damage. When it's SAFE to return AND you've notified your insurance provider and FEMA. Document your damages. Different claims may need different documentation, so ask!

DATE & TIME STAMP

There are apps can add date and time stamps to photos and videos. Check your favorite app store or a site like AppCrawlr.com for reviews and options.

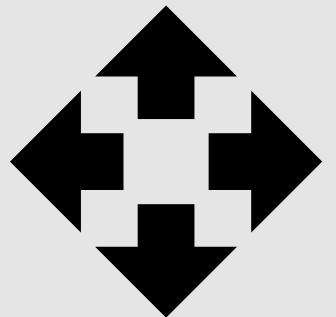


VIDEO

Smart phone video is another great way to "prove" damages. Don't rush it, can slowly walk the perimeter of your property, take a 360° of each room. Let the images help tell your story.

THE POWER OF 4

Ask your insurer and FEMA what you need for your claim. It's never a bad idea to have more than required. Take a pic from all 4 (or more) sides of your home and from all 4 (or more) corners of each room.

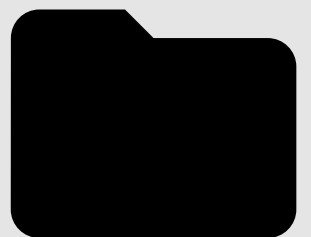


DOWN TO THE DETAILS

Use tape measures or rulers to show the height or depth of damage. Take photos of open drawers / closets / cabinets to show the contents. Take pics of the serial numbers of major appliances / equipment.

MAKE A BACK-UP

Whether it's in the cloud, on a jump drive or emailed to your mom, don't risk losing your documentation. You can also snap pics of receipts (old or new) as a back up in case they get lost.



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PROTECT YOURSELF WHEN HIRING A CONTRACTOR

To Complete Flood Damage Repairs

● EDUCATE YOURSELF

To find information or to report fraud, scam, or price gouging, visit the Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's Consumer Protection Division www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cpd/home-remodeling-and-repair.

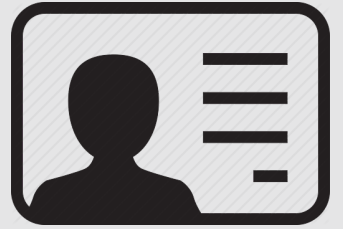


● THREE BIDS

Get at least 3 itemized bids from contractors. Check with Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors www.lslbc.louisiana.gov to ensure they are in truth a licensed contractor.

● ID & PROOF OF INSURANCE, PLEASE?

You should always require the contractor show you identification & proof of insurance. Take a pic of the id and a selfie with the contractor. For further verification, you can confirm with the insurer.



● NO BIG DOWN PAYMENTS

Do not agree to a large down payment! If possible, pay for the materials yourself at a supply store & have them delivered directly to your home.

● GET A GUARANTEE

Always get the contract and any changes in writing and make sure that both parties sign. Any changes should be initialed by both parties.



● PAYMENT METHODS

Always pay by a traceable method, i.e. check or money order, and make it payable to the company, not the individual. You should also keep all receipts.

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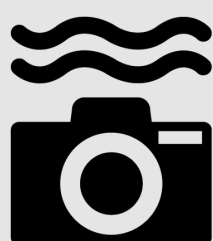


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ARCHIVISTS KEYS TO SALVAGING WATERLOGGED DOCUMENTS

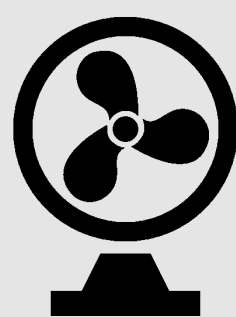
● IF SUBMERGED, LEAVE SUBMERGED



If the items were submerged, leave them submerged until they can be air dried or frozen. If possible, move to clean water!

● AIR DRY DOCUMENTS FLAT

In half inch piles, or if they can be separated, air dry them individually in an area where air is circulating. If available, use fans also to keep the air in the room moving. Do not point the fan directly on the documents. You could also lay screens on top of the documents to prevent them from blowing around.



● PAPER TOWEL ABSORBENCY

Put wet material on paper towels to absorb the water while flipping the documents every few hours to encourage evaporation on both sides. Change out the paper towels as they become soaked.

● FREEZE 'EM

For high volume of documents, freeze the items that are unable to be air dried within 48 hours. The materials can be unthawed for air drying later. However, if the items can stay in the freezer for a few months, they will dry themselves via sublimation.



● SAVING PHOTOGRAPHS



Air dry or freeze ASAP!
Separate them from the frames or each other and spread them out on paper towels face up to dry. As mentioned above, using fans would aid in minimizing mold growth.

Photos that are stuck together can be frozen by wrapping them in wax paper.

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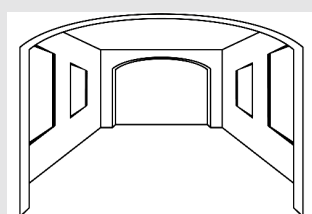
Source: <http://www.sos.la.gov/OurOffice/PublishedDocuments/081716FloodedDocumentTips.pdf>

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BEFORE YOU PUT THAT WALL BACK

Does Your Home Provide "Grace In Place"?

AGE-IN-PLACE REMODELING TIPS

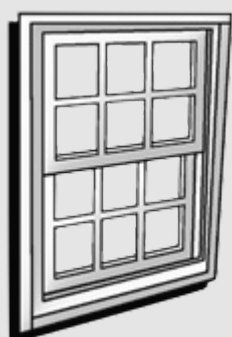


HALLWAYS

Make hallways a minimum of 36-inches wide, wider if possible. And, make sure it's well lit.

DOORS (INTERIOR)

For accessibility opt for 36-in, or 3-ft door to give a clear width of 32-in. Also, replace door knobs with levered handles to accommodate arthritis and other aging ailments.

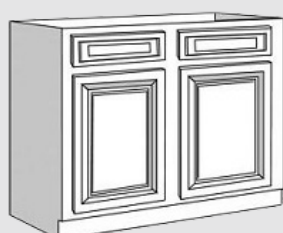


WINDOWS

Windows add natural light. If possible, use windows with a lower sill height and easy to operate hardware.

FAUCETS

Use lever handles or pedal-controlled faucets with thermostatic or anti-scald controls.



CABINETS

If reinstalling upper wall cabinetry, put them 3-in lower than conventional height. For base cabinets, install roll out trays and Lazy Susans or pull-down shelving.

BATHROOM

Have at least 1 wheelchair maneuverable bath with 5-ft turning radius clear space. Consider installing bracing in walls around tub/shower, shower seat, & toilet for installation of grab bars.



If installing a stand-up shower, make sure it is curbless and minimum of 3-ft wide with a fold down seat with slip-resistant flooring.

FLOORS

Make sure you have 1 floor level throughout the home for easier mobility throughout. Use smooth, non-glare, slip-resistant surfaces.

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Source: <https://www.nahb.org/en/learn/designations/certified-aging-in-place-specialist/related-resources/aging-in-place-remodeling-checklist.aspx>

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