

Wet Basement Cleanup

Information for cleanup of flooded basements based on event.

GROUNDWATER -- infiltration/lack of sump pump:

- Drywall & insulation- remove to one foot above high water line
- Carpet pad – remove and replace
- Carpet – may be dried out and disinfected if heavy mold is not present, otherwise replace
- Appliances – if appliance was inundated with water , have Licensed Mechanical Contractor inspect for repair or replacement
- Electrical openings – if inundated with water, have a Licensed Electrical Contractor inspect for repair or replacement
- Dry all areas including wall cavities
- Clean and disinfect all affected areas
- Note: heavy mold concentrations may need to be removed by a licensed contractor

SEWER -- backup:

- Drywall & insulation- remove to one foot above high water line
- Carpet pad – remove and replace
- Carpet – remove and replace
- Porous items and materials – remove and replace
- Appliances – if appliance was inundated with water , have Licensed Mechanical Contractor inspect for repair or replacement
- Electrical openings – if inundated with water, have a Licensed Electrical Contractor inspect for repair or replacement
- Dry all areas including wall cavities
- Clean and disinfect all affected areas
- Note: heavy mold concentrations may need to be removed by a licensed contractor

PERMITS and INSPECTIONS REQUIRED

- Electrical and Mechanical as needed

CLEANUP TIPS

- Wear rubber gloves when using disinfectants
- Disinfect affected areas with a solution of 10% household bleach (1-1/2 cup bleach per gallon of water) & wet thoroughly - do not mix bleach with ammonia.
- Allow disinfected areas to dry naturally overnight
- Ventilate area well
- Consider using a mask or respirator and protective clothing when removing moldy materials

There are a number of good resources that cover the issues and cleanup described above, particularly concerning mold. Please note the following links and simply type mold in the search engines:

<http://www.idph.iowa.gov/>
<http://www.cdc.gov/az/>
<http://www.epa.gov/>