

After a flood

Yukon Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) coordinates the Government of Yukon's preparedness and response to emergency events.

Homeowners should consider creating a recovery plan. Just like having an emergency plan, it will help you organize what needs to be done to return your home to normal after a flood.

Returning home

- Do not return home until authorities say it is safe to do so.
- If the main power switch was not turned off prior to flooding, do not re-enter your home until a qualified electrician has determined it is safe to do so.
- Check for any damage to electrical or gas equipment that may have been caused by floodwater.
- Do not use any appliances, heating, pressure, or sewage system until electrical components have been thoroughly cleaned, dried, and inspected by a qualified electrician.
- If water needs to be drained, do so slowly addressing about 1/3 of the water per day. This ensures the structure of your home won't buckle.
- Do not heat your home above the temperature outside until all water has been removed.
- If your house has been flooded and you have a private well, don't drink the water. Have it tested first.

Insurance

Before you start the cleanup, call your insurance company.

Be as detailed as possible when providing information. List all damaged or destroyed items. If possible, assemble proofs of purchase, photos, receipts and warranties. Keep all receipts related to clean up and living expenses if you've been displaced.

If there is damage to the structure of your home, ask your insurance company about getting a professional inspection.

How to clean your home

Cleaning up after a flood can pose health risks. You may see or smell mould on clothing, drywall, furniture, cardboard boxes or books, but it may also be hidden under or behind items like carpet, cushions or walls.

Before you begin cleaning, open all interior and exterior doors and windows, allowing air to flow freely through the space. Scrub all washable surfaces with a household bleach solution or unscented soap.

Recommended items for cleanup:

- Pails, mops and sponges
- Garbage bags
- Masks or goggles
- Protective rubber gloves
- Waterproof rubber boots
- Dish detergent
- Household bleach



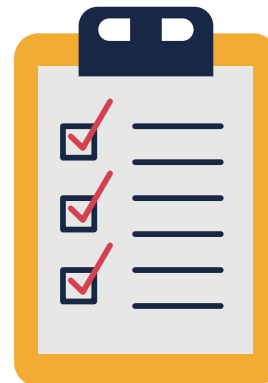
What to discard:

- All insulation materials, particleboard furniture, mattresses, box springs, stuffed toys, pillows, padding, cushions and furniture coverings that have been exposed to flood water
- All wet drywall, going at least 30 cm above the flood water level
- Perishable foods, foods or medicines packaged in cardboard or plastic

Before moving back in

Once the flood waters have receded, you should not live in your house until:

- The regular water supply has been inspected and officially declared safe for use.
- Every flood-contaminated room has been thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and surface-dried.
- All contaminated dishes and utensils have been thoroughly washed and disinfected - either by using boiling water or by using a sterilizing solution.



Visit [GetPrepared.ca](https://www.getprepared.ca) for additional information on returning to your home after a flood.