

WATER SEEPAGE / FLOOD

Prevention:

With over a meter of snow and 100 millimeters of rain, floods are an obvious threat. What can you do to prevent water seepage or flooding in or around your home or building?

- ensure that debris or other blocking agents are removed from any surrounding drainage source
- check eaves troughs or roof lines for debris or potential clogging items

Water needs a place to flow and naturally will run downwards.

- can a path be created to divert the water (shoveling of snow)
- does the urgency exist to sandbag, again diverting the water

Too late?

Before you do anything consider where the water came from that caused the damage. Was it from a fresh water source (snow, water line, tap, rain water from a downspout) “**Clean Water**”? Was it back-up from a storm drain or seepage through a foundation, perhaps soapy water from a dishwasher or washing machine “**Grey Water**”? Was it a back-up from a sewer (water from beyond the trap of a sink, toilet or floor drain that ties to the sewer system) “**Black Water**”?

Whenever possible, wear protective equipment (rubber boots, rubber gloves) when working with water

“Clean or Grey Water”

In “Clean” and “Grey” water floods, where possible, move furniture and other items to an unaffected (dry) area. If you do this, it is advisable to place any wet or damp items on a plastic protective material to prevent any damage to the new storage area. We also suggest that these items be cleaned and disinfected (any household disinfectant) as soon as possible.

If moving the furniture or items is not an option, you still need to prevent further seepage. Place them atop tin foil, plastic or Styrofoam as these are preferred blocking materials. Avoid using wood, metal, painted or coloured materials as wet surfaces tend to bleed which may cause unnecessary damage. It is important to block further damage as water will continue to be absorbed which may result in un-restorable damage. Some furniture also has metal buttons on the bottom of their legs which can rust if not properly addressed. If possible and/or practical, clean & disinfect the affected areas of the items.

“Black Water”

While you should always wear protective equipment when working (rubber boots, rubber gloves), it is particularly important when working with items contaminated with Black Water. We suggest that you wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, eye protection, respiratory protection and where possible, water resistant coveralls before handling or moving items, due to the potential contaminants within. We also highly recommend that persons at risk (young children and the elderly) be isolated from the flooded area to avoid exposure to potential illness causing contaminants.

In “Black” water floods:

- we strongly suggest isolating the affected area from the unaffected area. This can be easily done by taping poly over doorways between spaces.
- If there is a forced air furnace it should be turned off until the affected area can be cleaned and disinfected.
- Do not use fans or air movement to start the drying process until the areas have been cleaned and disinfected.

We do not recommend moving items contaminated by “Black “ water as you may contaminate an unaffected area.

If you are in doubt, please dial On Side at 310-24-07 anytime.

ALWAYS WASH & DISINFECT YOUR HANDS AND AVOID TOUCHING YOUR MOUTH OR EYES WHILE WORKING WITH POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED ITEMS.

In all cases, we recommend that windows and doors should be cracked (opened slightly). This will promote drying.

This document is strictly written to assist in prevention or further damage caused by water damage. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact On Side directly.