

Hurricane/Flood Recovery Outline

- I. Contact your insurance company and engage professional/licensed electricians, contractors, and consultants before initiating work. (I realize this is probably a non-starter, except for contacting your insurance company—but it covers our professional liability!)
- II. Be Safe
 - a. Electricity
 - i. Disconnect from power company
 - ii. Recommend you have a real electrician look at your system before energizing
 - iii. Check main disconnect and electrical panel (water there is a bad thing!)
 - iv. Beware down wires near your home
 - b. Gas
 - c. Structure
 - d. Critters
- III. **Get the building dry (and all the materials in it)**
 - a. Place dehumidifiers & fans. Your air conditioner is better than nothing (but only marginally so).
 - b. If no power—open the windows and doors
 - c. Remove wet gypsum board, insulation, and carpet
- IV. Beware of other environmental issues
 - a. Asbestos, Lead, Mercury, etc.
 - b. Chemicals—Gasoline, Pesticides, etc.
- V. Clean and Disinfect
 - a. White glove clean—no debris or dust or mold
 - b. Bleach kills mold & disinfects (but you have to dry the area/no positive residual effect)
 - c. Soap and water are effective (but you have to dry the area) (Borax)
 - d. Distilled White Vinegar is effective (but you have to dry the area/no positive residual effect)
 - e. Commercial products: Microban or Shockwave
 - f. No matter what you use, read the instructions and protect yourself
 - g. Get the building dry and keep it dry**
- VI. Salvageable items
 - a. Use a baby pool, bath tub, or bucket if you have no power
 - b. Wash dishes and utensils
 - c. Launder clothes (you'll be able to save some of your clothes)
 - d. Get them dry**
 - e. Appliances
 - i. Can sometimes be salvaged—if you dry them and clean them before energizing them. (Don't get electrocuted or cause a fire!)
 - ii. Get them cleaned up (yes, your refrigerator and freezer will be nasty on the inside—but can be cleaned and deodorized)
- VII. Mold
 - a. Sampling: For peace of mind, after you've cleaned and dried the space. Not before. **There is no such thing as a "Mold Free Certificate"!**
 - b. Remove moldy materials (check the back of your wall board and sheathing!)
 - c. Clean the space—white glove clean
 - d. Dry the space**
- VIII. Rebuild with water tolerant materials
- IX. Resources
 - a. LSU: http://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/family_home/hazards_and_threats
 - b. Texas A & M: <http://texashelp.tamu.edu/disaster-recovery-guide-and-ebook.php>
 - c. FEMA: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/31368>