



Question of the Week

Q: How do I clean up my basement after the flood?

A: After the water/sewage has receded, make certain you've disconnected all electrical equipment. Wear plastic disposable gloves and clothing that can be discarded. Wash down concrete or tile floors with a soap and water solution to remove as much residue as possible. Rinse the walls and floors with clean water.

Use fans and dehumidifiers to speed the drying of all surfaces to prevent mold and mildew growth. Remove and discard all wallboard and wooden baseboards and paneling that have gotten wet. The water they have absorbed could speed the growth of mold and other harmful microorganisms and cause the material to become structurally unsound.

Wash non-porous materials such as dishes, toys, tools, and other household goods in hot, soapy water and rinse thoroughly. Before reinstalling materials such as drywall, wall paneling and carpeting make sure all surfaces are completely dry and mold/mildew-free. In some cases, this may take up to 30 days.

Visit http://extension.unh.edu/news/2006/05/flood_links.html for links to many online flood recovery resources.

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. You can also email us at answers@unh.edu