

Dealing with flood damaged items

Removing flood contaminated items is important for your health and safety and is a first step in drying out your property then preventing further damage that might occur with the development of mould.

Call your insurer

They will tell you how to keep a record of what has been damaged or otherwise ruined and ask you to take photographs of it.

Your insurer will typically want you to take out flooded:

- Carpets
- Couches
- Beds

Any other contaminated items that can't be disinfected and cleaned such as:

- Clothing
- Toys
- Bedding
- Food, including that in containers
- Wooden and plastic cooking utensils that have been in contact with flood water.

Electrical goods and appliances

Your insurer can also advise about what to do with any affected electrical goods and appliances.

Protective equipment

Appropriate protective equipment should be used when dealing with contaminated items.

Under no circumstances should potentially hazardous materials, such as asbestos which can sometimes be found in hard floor coverings, be disturbed.

Your insurer will want to arrange for suitably qualified experts to undertake such work if required. Such experts will also know how to put such material through its appropriate waste disposal stream.

Strip out

Flooded properties may also require some additional strip out to remove damaged floors, walls and other structural elements.

Again, such items should only be removed with the agreement of your insurer with the work undertaken by suitably qualified professionals as there is a risk that the structural integrity of a building could be compromised, for instance if floors or wall linings that are part of a building's bracing system are removed.

Once items have been removed, the local council will either be providing assistance for disposal or be able to offer advice on where to take it.

Disposing of hazardous materials

Guidelines around the disposal of hazardous materials, gas bottles and batteries must be followed. These items must not be added to general waste.