



## Do's and Don'ts

### *Water Damage*

#### **Do's**

- SHUT OFF THE WATER SOURCE WHEN POSSIBLE.
- Turn off the circuit breakers supplying electricity to wet areas.
- Unplug and remove any small electrical devices currently located on wet carpet.
- Watch slipping hazards when walking from wet carpet onto vinyl or hardwood floors.
- Remove valuable paintings and art objects to a safe place.
- Remove Oriental or colored area rugs from wet carpeting.
- Carefully remove miscellaneous items from wood furniture and wipe it down.
- Remove books, magazines and other color staining items from wet floors.
- Place aluminum foil or saucers between furniture legs and wet carpeting.
- Remove and prop up wet cushions to facilitate drying. Check them for any color bleeding
- Separate wet clothing to prevent moisture build-up and color transfer.
- Punch small holes in sagging ceilings to help trapped water escape. If unsure about the danger of the ceiling collapsing, don't attempt to punch these holes!
- Begin to remove as much standing water as possible by mopping and blotting with dry white towels.
- Open wet cabinet doors and drawers. If swollen, do not force open.

#### **Don'ts**

- Do not turn ceiling fans on when the ceiling is wet.
- Do not use a household vacuum to remove standing water.
- Do not leave wet fabrics in place. Dry as soon as possible.
- Do not leave books, magazines or other color staining items from wet floors.
- Do not leave furniture directly on wet carpeting.
- Do not attempt to clean upholstery, oriental rugs or other potentially color staining fibers with ordinary household cleaners.
- Do not leave colored rugs on wet wall-to-wall carpeting. Remove them until carpeting is completely dry.
- Do not begin to repair or repaint any damage surfaces until they are completely dry.

### *Mold Damage*

#### **Do's**

- Call an inspection company to investigate the issue.
- Have professional remediation performed. Attempting to clean mold and remove it on your own will only make the matter worse and put you and others at risk.

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY CALL  
(305) 233-0500 in Miami-Dade  
(954) 385-9755 in Broward**

### **Don'ts**

- Do not disturb mold colonies after you've located them. Air motion will send millions of viable spore into the air, cross-contaminating the rest of the room/structure.
- Do not continue remodeling if you open up ceilings or walls and find mold, stop until the hazard can be analyzed. Tearing out moldy building materials has the same effect as above.
- Do not try to kill mold with bleach or other fungicides. It does not remove the toxins from the air. A dead spore will continue to give off toxins until it is removed.
- Do not seal and paint over mold. It does not kill the mold or remove the toxins. It is only a short-term fix while poor health symptoms will continue.

### *Fire Damage*

#### **Do's**

- In the event of significant fire/smoke damage, make sure the fire department and your utility providers have determined it is safe to reconnect water, electricity or gas.
- Upon re-entering your property, look for structural damage to ceilings, roof and walls that may be compromised and subject to collapse.
- In the event of contained fire/smoke damage, IMMEDIATELY turn off your heating/cooling system to prevent airborne soot particles from infiltrating through out your home. Change the furnace filter.
- Open windows for ventilation.
- Contain the damage by shutting doors in the affected area and placing towels under the door to prevent the airborne soot particles and odor from spreading.
- Tape double layers of cheesecloth over air register and returns.
- Limit your movements within your home or business as much as possible. Airborne soot particles will become impregnated in carpets and upholstery. Try to avoid inhaling the soot. A respirator is advised.
- Wipe off and protect the chrome on plumbing fixtures and appliances by applying a light coating of Vaseline or oil. This will help to prevent the metal from pitting due to the acidic nature of the soot particles.
- Keep hands as clean as possible. Soot, combined with the oil in your hands, can further contaminate walls, woodwork and upholstery. This makes the cleaning process more difficult.

#### **Don'ts**

- Do not consume any canned or packaged food, beverages or medicines until the level of exposure to heat, smoke and soot has been determined. They may have been contaminated.
- Do not throw away any damaged goods until an inventory has been taken.
- Do not attempt to wash any walls, ceilings or other absorbent surfaces without consulting a professional first.
- Do not attempt to shampoo carpet or upholstered furniture without consulting a professional first.
- If the ceiling appears wet, do not turn on any ceiling fixtures.
- Do not use any electrical appliances until they have been cleaned.
- Do not take clothing, draperies, linens, etc. to a normal dry cleaner. These items require special equipment and procedures to fully remove soot and smoke odor.

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