



# NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



The Needham Public Health Division and the Needham Building Department would like to remind Needham residents to take the following Flood Clean-up measures gathered from guidance documents provided by – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

## Flood and Excess Moisture Clean-up Guidance:

- Identify source(s) of excess moisture and/or where water is coming from and work to address these sources.
  - Respond quickly! Areas or articles that are exposed to moisture should be dried and cleaned within 24-48 hours to help prevent the potential growth of mold. Once excess water is removed aim to quickly dry by circulating air using fans, turning on ventilation fans, opening windows, using dehumidifiers, and if needed renting industrial grade drying equipment and/or consulting with a professional on this matter. Position fans to blow air outside.
  - IF water is potentially contaminated it is recommended that basic personal protective equipment is worn such as face masks, gloves and boots and disposable clothes be worn before responding.
  - IF your yard was flooded by a surface water body or any type of wastewater source, it is recommended that your yard is disinfected with the liberal application of lime. Children and animals should be kept away from limed areas until the lime is no longer visible.
  - IF the flooding of potentially contaminated water and/or wastewater was indoors, non-porous floors, wall surfaces and household articles can be cleaned with detergent, rinsed until visibly clean and then disinfected with a solution of two capfuls of regular strength household bleach per gallon of water or another approved household sanitizer. Stick to a single type of cleaner and never mix cleaning chemicals together or use more than one at a time.
  - Porous and absorbent items such as but not limited to carpeting, ceiling tiles, upholstered furniture and mattresses exposed to wastewater or were exposed to excess moisture for over 24-48 hours should be disposed of and/or sanitized by a professional cleaning service. Dispose of anything that cannot be properly cleaned. It is recommended that you change clothes and take a cleansing shower after cleaning.
  - Large quantities of flood water may destabilize the ground and/or structures, so use the appropriate levels of caution. Remember to be aware of other types of physical, electrical and chemical hazards present.
  - Reinspect these areas over to time to check for signs of mold or other types of damage. If there are signs of mold growth, you may want to consult with a cleaning professional.
  - It may be a good idea to take pictures of damage before making repairs to your home for insurance purposes.
  - If anyone in your household falls ill, please contact your health care provider.
  - After repairs are completed, it is recommended that steps are taken to pest proof and weatherproof your home and/or property which may include but is not limited to checking your roof, foundation, siding and chimney are in good repair, maintaining gutters and downspouts, regrading your yard or installing french drains to have storm water drain away, making sure all doors and windows are weathertight, adding ventilation fans that direct air outdoors, securing dumpsters and/or trash barrels and removing excess debris and rubbish from your property.
- FEMA: Mold Problems and Solutions Fact Sheet link - <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210318/fact-sheet-mold-problems-and-solutions>
- MA Dept. of Public Health Fact Sheet link - [Storm Fact Sheet | Mass.gov](#)