

Top 10 Tips

for Rebuilding Healthy Homes After a Disaster

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development offers the following tips to restore damaged homes, in a way that puts people first. Please use this important checklist only after the proper authorities have given the “okay” to return to your damaged property. This information applies to anyone - families, individuals, volunteers, contractors, and all those helping in disaster recovery! In the meantime, act NOW to prepare in advance and be ready for a natural disaster. Visit www.ready.gov.

1. Remind yourself often to **put people before property!** Make safety your top priority.
2. **Wear personal protective equipment (PPE)**, including protective clothing and a NIOSH-approved respirator, **every** time you set foot in a damaged or moldy building.
3. **Assess** structural stability and hidden hazards before you enter. A professional inspection may be needed.
4. **Prepare a plan** for site work (supplies and methods), **make a map** (disposal and clean-up site layout), and **review** insurance policies and disaster assistance resources.
5. **Go slow** when pumping out water, then **act fast** to dry out and remove mold. Read, copy and share the *DIY Mold Removal Guidelines* sheet from the *Rebuild Healthy Homes* guidebook.
6. **Always remove wet insulation and foam padding**, even if the surface looks dry and clean.
7. **Assume lead-based paint and asbestos** are in homes built before 1978 (unless verified not present). Be mindful that disturbing such materials increases the hazard.
8. **Control dust, capture debris and contain contaminants** – with wet methods, drop cloths, debris bags, HEPA vacuums and workers trained in safe work practices.
9. **Check credentials** and hire only licensed and insured contractors, Lead-Safe Certified Renovators and certified asbestos professionals. Examine qualifications of mold remediation, fire and water damage restoration and other professionals. Check with your local contractor licensing agency, permit office and health department for requirements and lists.
10. **Restore for more than before!** Install hazard-resistant materials, connectors and building systems. Include energy-saving and **healthy home improvements**.



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes
www.hud.gov/healthyhomes



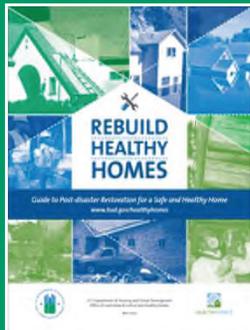
HEALTHY HOMES
Healthy Families | Healthy Children

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HUD Disaster Recovery Resources

The materials below can be downloaded from www.hud.gov/healthyhomes
(Search OLHCHH Disaster Recovery)

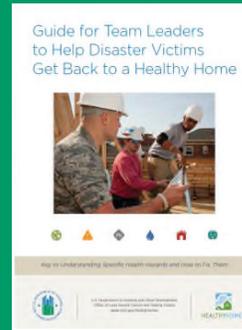
NEW Online Resources (free to view or download)



Rebuild Healthy Homes - A Guide to Post-Disaster Restoration for a Safe and Healthy Home



Consumer Tips for Post-Disaster Restoration – Getting Back to a Healthy Home



Guide for Team Leaders to Help Disaster Victims Get Back to a Healthy Home



Important Information for Volunteers in Helping Disaster Victims Get Back to a Healthy Home

AVAILABLE NOW Rebuild Healthy Homes App

This app brings the wealth of practical how-to guidance from the *Rebuild Healthy Homes* guidebook to your mobile device for handy use - both before your return to your damaged home, and during the restoration process. Download it now to be ready when disaster strikes!



Videos

- 🏠 Restoring Your Home After a Natural Disaster
- 🏠 Returning to Your Flood Damage Home
- 🏠 Addressing Mold After a Natural Disaster

Videos can be viewed at:
www.youtube.com/user/HUDchannel

