



## Tips for Flood Recovery

1. After the flood, start cleaning and drying out flood affected buildings right away.
  - a. Begin clean up as soon as flood waters recede and it is safe. Wear the proper equipment to protect yourself including safety glasses and heavy work gloves.
  - b. Dry out flooded areas of your home. Use fans and dehumidifiers to remove excess moisture as soon as possible. Weather permitting; open the windows and doors to ventilate the room.
  - c. Once the house has been dried out, remove mold from hard surfaces by washing with soap and water and letting all washed surfaces dry completely. Bleach can be used following all label instructions, paying special attention to the precautionary statements and dilution rate.
  - d. Save receipts and insurance claim information associated with clean up and repair activities in case FEMA Individual Assistance becomes available through a presidential major disaster declaration.
  - e. Check crawl spaces and basements for wet insulation, compromised mechanical and electrical systems as flood damage may not be readily apparent.
  - f. For more information on cleaning your home:
    - i. [FEMA guidance on Cleaning Flooded Buildings](#)
    - ii. [Red Cross - Repairing Your Flooded Home](#)
2. Affected building owners and renters should contact their insurance agent. Document any damage to buildings and contents with photographs. This will help insurance adjusters if/when a flood insurance claim is filed.
  - a. For inquiries about flood insurance go to [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).
3. Consult with your local government Floodplain Administrator and Building Official for information and permits when considering new construction or repairs on property affected by recent flooding.
  - a. Obtaining building permits for homes or businesses located within the 100-year flood plain is especially important, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure flood resistance design and construction, and the national flood insurance program requirements are met.
4. Verify [contractor licenses](#) from the Oregon State Building Codes Division to protect yourself from fraud.
5. A presidentially declared major disaster declaration is required before any state or federal financial assistance becomes available.
  - a. A state emergency declaration is an important step in obtaining a Federal disaster declaration but not an assurance that Federal assistance will be available.

*\*This information is courtesy of the Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation and Development and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. For more information contact: [public.info@state.or.us](mailto:public.info@state.or.us).*