

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW AFTER A SEWER BACK-UP

After a sewer back-up, it is very important to follow emergency procedures quickly to minimize subsequent health hazards and property loss.

Unlike fire and other losses, water losses may not start out severe, but may end up causing damage because of delay of cleaning up the water or sewage. Generally, by taking proper emergency action immediately, a sewer back-up will result in either no damage or minimum damage caused by the water.

The resident has the duty to minimize damage.

- 1) Remove all water and sewage from the basement or other affected areas immediately.
- 2) Remove all wet rugs, clothes, boxes, and other items from the affected area. Clean all rugs, clothing, and other washable items immediately.
- 3) If carpet is affected, call a professional carpet cleaning service immediately to extract the water from the carpet, and then clean and deodorize the carpet.
- 4) If the water was high enough to involve a motor on a furnace, or electrical appliance, call a reputable repair business to remove the motor and dry it. In most cases a motor can be dried without incurring any damage.
- 5) Wash all concrete or tile floors with fresh water, then wash them with a strong germ-killing and odor-killing solution.

- 6) Take all items that have finely machined parts such as sewing machines and typewriters, to a repair facility immediately for cleaning and oiling.
- 7) Remove and dry all items stored in wet cardboard boxes. Throw away the wet boxes.
- 8) Thoroughly dry all wood furniture and other wooden items then wipe them with an oil-base wood polish.
- 9) Remove all wet paper items from the affected area and store them outside or throw them away, depending on their value.
- 10) Ventilate the affected area with the use of floor fans, and a dehumidifier if available, to properly dry the area. You can rent floor fans and dehumidifiers locally.
- 11) Other than paper products, there are very few items that are damaged by water unless allowed to sit in that wet condition. Water will not hurt metal or wood if thoroughly dried and wiped down with some form of oil. Clothing and carpet not cleaned and dried will mildew and stain. Motors and machine parts can be saved if thoroughly dried by a professional. Floor tile and carpeting will remain secure if the water is removed immediately, otherwise, the water will dissolve the adhesives used in securing the floor tile or carpet to the floor. Wood furniture, wood paneling, and other wooden objects will spot, separate, stain or warp if left wet.

For additional information about this back-up call
Boone County Regional Sewer District's
Operation's Superintendent at (573)-443-2774.