

## Wet Furniture

- Discard upholstered furniture if it has been exposed to water or contaminated material.
- Clean, rinse and disinfect wood furniture.
- Place wood furniture outside in a shady area so it will dry slowly.

## Wet Appliances

- If your hot water heater became wet due to flooding, it should be discarded. The insulation typically can't be replaced and the burner or heating element might be damaged and could cause an explosion or fire if used. If in doubt, consult a service professional before using.
- If the furnace was flooded, have it inspected and serviced by a professional furnace service before using.

## Record Keeping

- Take pictures of damages for your records.
- Keep all receipts for all work done.
- Write a description of the extent of damage done.
- Record date and time of occurrence and which sewer areas surcharged - floor drain, lower level toilet, laundry tub and the like.

For more information

For more information, contact the City of Edina's Public Works Utilities Division, 952-826-0311, or visit the City's website, [www.ci.edina.mn.us](http://www.ci.edina.mn.us)

For more information on clean ups, visit the Minnesota Department of Health's website, [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)



**City of Edina**

4801 West 50th Street  
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# DO YOU

Have a sewer problem?



Here are some  
tips for you.



*Occasionally, a blockage in a sewer main or sewer service results in back up of sanitary sewage into a private home. Unfortunately, you have experienced one of these sewer backups. You probably have many questions about what to do next. The following information should provide you with a starting point.*

## Insurance

The City is not usually responsible when a sewer backs up. There are many reasons for backups, which the City cannot control. For example, people dumping inappropriate things such as grease or diapers into the system can create a blockage. Tree roots can grow into and obstruct the lines. Generally, the City is responsible only if it was negligent in maintaining the sewer lines.

Sometimes, your homeowner's insurance will pay for sewer backups. Not all policies have this coverage, so check with your agent.

*If you feel that the damage occurred as a direct result of the City's negligence, you can file an insurance claim by calling 952-826-0404.*

## Clean Up

For large clean ups, you should probably call a cleaning service. Your insurance carrier might have suggestions on which service to use or you can look in the Yellow Pages under "Water Damage Restoration" or "House Cleaning." For smaller areas you can clean yourself, use a solution of two tablespoons of chlorine bleach in one gallon of water. To reduce health hazards, thoroughly clean the areas affected by the backup as soon as possible. The Minnesota Department of Health suggests the following:

- Use outside air to dry your home.
- Open windows and doors and use an exhaust fan to remove moist air from the house.
- If available, use a room de-humidifier. Empty it often.
- If your basement is completely flooded, begin pumping the water in stages – about one-third per day. Make sure that the level of the floodwaters is below the level of the basement floor. If so, do not pump the basement all at once because the saturated soil could cause the basement walls to collapse.
- Wear a mask to prevent inhaling contaminated dust, especially if you have allergies. Consult your physician if you have questions.
- Open, clean, decontaminate and thoroughly dry cavities in walls, floors and ceilings.
- Allow walls to dry from the inside out.
- Remove moisture and debris from all surfaces and get surface materials dry within 24-48 hours.
- Release any water or mud that has been trapped in walls, ceilings or floor cavities.
- Remove all interior wall finishing materials and insulation.
- Throw out any wet insulation.
- Throw out most plaster, wallboard and paneling.
- Throw out mattresses and pillows.
- Throw out any opened food or packaged foods that are not waterproof. Commercially canned foods can be salvaged if the labels are removed and the cans thoroughly washed. The cans should then be disinfected by wiping the entire surface with a laundry bleach and water mixture and rinsed in clear water. Home-canned foods require additional care. After the jars containing home-canned foods have been washed and disinfected, the food should be boiled for 10 minutes before using.

**If you think you might have materials containing asbestos in your home, call the Minnesota Department of Health, 651-215-0900.**

*If any materials are still wet or moist after 24-48 hours, you should assume they have mold growing on them.*

## Soiled Clothing or Blankets

- Line-dry all articles before attempting to clean or treat them.
- After drying, brush off loose dirt and debris.
- Send "Dry Clean Only" items to a professional cleaner.
- Wash clothes several times in cold water. Add up to a cup of bleach per load of wash if it will not harm the clothing.
- Rinse and dry all items as soon as possible.

## Wet Carpeting

- Pull up waterlogged carpet immediately, to prevent further floor damage.
- Carpet pads cannot be saved. Remove the pads and throw them away.
- Attempt to save carpets or throw rugs only if they would be very expensive to replace.
- Clean and dry your floors thoroughly before re-carpeting.

## Wet Floors or Hardwood

- Remove any moisture or debris.
- Scrub floors and woodwork within 48 hours using a stiff brush, water, detergent and disinfectant.
- Allow all wood to dry thoroughly.