

As the Floodwaters Recede:
A CHECKLIST of Things to Do

The following checklist will help you respond to flood damage in historic and older buildings. Read the steps through carefully and take time to plan. While it is tempting to wade right in with a shovel and mop, it is very important to develop a plan for cleanup and rehabilitation. Unfortunately, overly zealous cleanup efforts can result in historic materials being carted away, excessively rough cleaning methods, and the unnecessary loss of historic fabric. The best way to prevent additional damage to historic structures and materials during a time of duress is to use caution and plan ahead.

- Follow all emergency rules, laws, and regulations
- Turn off all utilities
- Document building damage
- Wear protective clothing
- Stabilize any unstable structures with temporary bracing
- Use caution when pumping basement water
- Keep building properly ventilated
- Clean everything that got wet with a disinfectant
- Allow saturated materials to dry using natural ventilation
- Check for foundation damage
- Replace soil around foundation
- Save historic materials if possible
- Use caution when removing lead-based paint or any products containing asbestos
- Clean and repair roof and roof drainage systems to protect building from future damage

Adapted from: INFORMATION, National Trust for Historic Preservation Booklet No. 82, 1993, Treatment of Flood-Damaged Older and Historic Buildings.

Resources for Flood Damaged Properties:

Vermont Flood Guide: Preparation, Response and Recovery
<https://ptvermont.org/vermont-flood-guide-preparation-response-recovery/>

National Trust for Historic Preservation Disaster Response Resources
<https://savingplaces.org/disaster-recovery>

19 Tips for Bringing Historic Properties Back From a Flood
<https://savingplaces.org/stories/10-tips-for-bringing-historic-properties-back-from-a-flood>

Tips for Drying Out a Flood Damaged Building

<https://mht.maryland.gov/documents/PDF/flooding/DryingBuilding.pdf>

Saving Wet Books After a Flood

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/preservation-matters-disasters-saving-wet-books-after-a-flood.htm>

Returning Home After a Flood

<https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/returning-home-after-flood>

In the coming days and weeks...

We are currently coordinating with partners to determine the best way to effectively help our historic downtowns, village centers, businesses, and homeowners. Please stay tuned for more information in the coming days and weeks.

If you have questions, concerns or are in immediate need of help with your building, please feel free to contact us here and we will get back to you as soon as we can:

<https://ptvermont.org/about/contact/>