

# FLOOD DAMAGE CHECKLIST

## ! WHAT NOT TO DO

1. **Do not** use your home vacuum to remove water – electrical shock can result, as well as damage to the equipment.
2. **Do not** place newspaper to walk on in high-traffic areas – newspaper ink transfers easily to wet carpet fibers, which results in permanent staining.
3. **Do not** walk on wet or submerged carpet any more than necessary – this keeps damage from spreading to unaffected areas.
4. **Do not** try to begin the water mitigation or mold remediation process – these are time-sensitive tasks best left to the professionals.

## ✓ WHAT TO DO

### Find out if the area is safe.

If you evacuated because of a natural flooding disaster, contact local emergency first responders or FEMA to determine if it is safe to return to your neighborhood.

### Shut down the electrical breaker in damaged areas before unplugging or removing any electrical devices from the wet carpet or submerged areas.

### Determine the cause of the flood.

If there's a leaky appliance or plumbing issue, turn off the main water shut-off valve and the appliance. If you can't stop an active leak yourself, call a plumber.

### Begin removing standing water.

Any water more than an inch deep must be removed immediately, ideally by mitigation professionals. Remove water using shop vacuums (wet-dry vacuums), mops, etc.

### Move any furniture or possessions away from the affected area (e.g., higher ground).

### Document the damage.

Take photos of the flood and any items that have been damaged in the flood.

### Call your insurance company.

All policies require that homeowners or businesses report their loss "as soon as reasonably possible."

With their expert water damage restoration and cleanup, mold removal and reconstruction services, local Rainbow International technicians can help you find the rainbow on the other side of any flood damage event. If you have flood damage, don't delay. Call (855) 724-6269 now for 24/7 emergency service.