

## Basement Flooding and Cleaning Up After a Storm

- Many areas of the city can experience rainfall flooding. If you live in a basement apartment, be prepared to take shelter above ground, and move valuable items from basements to upper floors.
- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- Before re-entering a building, check for structural damage. Make sure it is not in danger of collapsing. Turn off any outside gas lines at the meter or tank, and let the building air out for several minutes to remove foul odors or escaping gas.
- Watch for electrical shorts or live wires before turning off the main power switch. Do not turn on any lights or appliances until an electrician has checked the system for short circuits.
- Throw out fresh food and previously opened medicines that have come in contact with floodwaters.

### Assessing and Repairing Damage

- Owners who want to reoccupy residences damaged by flooding should first hire a New York State-licensed Registered Architect or Professional Engineer to assess the building's safety. If the building is not safe to occupy, the owners should seek alternative housing arrangements while repairs are made. Owners should take pictures of all damage and flood impacts and keep receipts for all repairs if they intend to apply for disaster assistance or to make an insurance claim.
- To make repairs, owners need to work with an engineer or architect who has the necessary City-authorized permits. The City advises residents to obtain two or three quotes from different contractors before beginning the work, which can vary widely in price depending on various field conditions. If an owner needs assistance with applications for permits, he or she should contact 311 (212-639-9675 for Video Relay Service, or TTY: 212-504-4115).
- Dry all areas and items quickly and thoroughly.
- Dry clean or wash and dry all clothing and other home items. Clean floors, furniture, and other surfaces with detergent and water.
- Stay out of deep water. Extensive flooding damage may require clean-up and restoration by professionals.
- For more cleanup tips, including tips on handling sewage and mold growth, visit the [NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene's website](#).