

Sewage and Flood Damage Sewage backflows and river floods are a serious health threat to indoor environments and to the people who reside in them. Many federal and state organizations have banded together to establish some guidelines for restoring buildings damaged sewage and river flooding. The information presented here is to act as an informative guideline about the health effects associated with sewage backflow and river flooding. Our goal is to make technical recommendations for safe, effective restoration.

Fundamental Considerations for Remediation

The primary consideration in restoring a building damaged by sewage or floodwater is the safety of the occupants or workers that reside in the structure. Due to the unknown contaminants present in river flooding, it is advised that river water be considered a sewage type damage when beginning remediation procedures.



Health-based Recommendations for Restoration

REMEDICATION SHOULD BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!

The longer the contamination is allowed to persist, the greater the potential for microbial growth and resultant damage.

Unprotected occupants or workers should be evacuated from the affected areas during the initial stages of decontamination, cleaning and disinfecting. (e.g. until sewage has been removed and disinfectants applied)

Technicians & others in the vicinity of the sewage during the initial stage of decontamination and cleaning should be equipped with proper personal protection gear including respirators, gloves, and protective suits.

Care should be exercised to prevent cross contamination from affected areas to unaffected areas.

In all cases, never consider that sewage backflows or river flooding is just a simple wet carpet or wet basement condition.

Levels of Sewage: Defined Conditions

There are 3 levels of sewage contamination to be considered when dealing with homes and buildings. The restoration response in each situation may be different.