

## WATER DAMAGE – CLEANUP AND MOLD PREVENTION

The following table is adapted from the U.S. EPA “Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings” and summarizes methods for responding to clean water damage events.

*Table 1 - Guidelines for Response to Clean Water Damage within 24-48 Hours to Prevent Mold Growth*

WATER DAMAGED MATERIAL	ACTIONS
Books and papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For non-valuable items, discard books and papers</li> <li>• Photocopy valuable/important items, discard originals, according to the security level needed</li> <li>• Freeze (in frost-free freezer or meat locker) or freeze-dry</li> </ul>
*Carpet and backing – dry within 24-48 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove water with water extraction vacuum</li> <li>• Reduce ambient humidity levels with dehumidifier</li> <li>• Accelerate drying process with fans</li> </ul>
Ceiling tile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discard and replace</li> </ul>
Cellulose insulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discard and replace</li> </ul>
Concrete or cinder block surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove water with water extraction vacuum</li> <li>• Accelerate drying process with dehumidifier, fans and/or heaters</li> </ul>
Fiberglass insulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discard and replace</li> </ul>
*Hard surface, porous flooring (linoleum, ceramic tile, vinyl)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacuum or damp wipe with water and mild detergent and allow to dry; scrub if necessary</li> <li>• Check to make sure underflooring is dry; dry underflooring if necessary</li> </ul>
Non-porous, hard surfaces (plastics, metals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacuum or damp wipe with water and mild detergent and allow to dry; scrub if necessary</li> </ul>
Upholstered furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove water with water extraction vacuum</li> <li>• Accelerate drying process with dehumidifier, fans and/or heaters</li> <li>• May be difficult to complete within 48 hours. If the piece is valuable, you may wish to consult a restoration/water damage professional who specializes in furniture</li> </ul>
Wallboard (drywall and gypsum board)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be dried in place if there is no obvious swelling and the seams are intact. If not, remove, discard, and replace</li> <li>• Ventilate the wall cavity, if possible</li> </ul>
Window drapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow laundering or cleaning instructions recommended by the manufacturer</li> </ul>
Wood surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove moisture immediately and use dehumidifiers, gentle heat and fans for drying. <i>(Use caution when applying heat to hardwood floors.)</i></li> <li>• Treated or finished wood surfaces may be cleaned with mild detergent and clean water and allowed to dry</li> <li>• Wet paneling should be pried away from wall for drying</li> </ul>

\*The subfloor under the carpet or other flooring material must be cleaned and dried. This may involve removing the carpet when practicable. See the appropriate section of this table for recommended actions depending on the composition of the subfloor.