

How to Manage a Flooded Basement

Basements are very common in homes throughout the world, but they are also a place where flooding takes place. Heavy rains, a faulty washing machine or a leak in the water pipes can all lead to an unwanted [flooded basement](#).



A basement flood can vary from a few centimeters of water to knee height or more. It depends on what causes the flood. As with any flood damage you want to remove the water as quickly as possible to reduce the risk of mold and any further damage to the property.

When you head down to the basement and notice that the area is flooded, it's understandable that you go into complete panic mode. But try and keep a cool head, there is a lot that needs to be done to reduce the risk of further damage.

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Start by turning off any power that leads to the basement. Maybe you use the basement for laundry or you've converted it to a home office, whatever you use your basement for, you want to turn off the power straight away. Everyone knows that electricity and water don't mix.

With the power turned off you can venture into the waters below. Be careful where you step and remove any items that are completely free of water damage. Boxes, photographs, furniture, basically anything that has no water damage should be removed from the area as quickly as possible.

When you head back down take towel or cloth with you. Any smaller items that are slightly damp, but can be saved, should be wiped dry before removing them from the flooded basement.

Larger items that are soaked or slightly wet, should be wiped down as best as possible and moved to a dry location with plenty of air ventilation to help them dry. The sooner they start drying out the risk of mold is reduced. Remember not all items will be salvageable.

Once you have cleared your flooded basement it's time to start removing all the water. A light flood can be cleaned up within an hour or two, but deeper floods can take a day or more.

Start by removing all the water, you may get away with a mop and bucket for small floods, but larger ones may require the entire family getting involved, carrying buckets of water out of the basement.

With the water removed it's time to mop the area to get any excess water out of the space. As you probably know water can cause mold and some mold can cause serious health consequences. It's important that you ventilate the area as quickly as possible.

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