

EMERGENCY TIPS

FIRE & SMOKE DAMAGE

After fire damage, it is natural for a person to want to clean a building or home and its contents. Timely action can be a great help. It is also true that incorrect or delayed action may jeopardize or seriously impede satisfactory restoration. The following **EMERGENCY TIPS** were compiled by members of the **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FIRE RESTORATION** and are based on their wide experience in this field. It is not likely that you will require all the procedures on the list, but it's always good to know. Examine the situation and use those steps which apply.

- DO... Clean and protect chrome trim on kitchen appliances and bathroom faucets, tub fittings and towel bars with a light coating of vaseline or other oil.
- DO... Blow off or brush-vacuum loose smoke particles from upholstery, drapes, carpets.
- DO... Open windows for ventilation.
- DO... Change furnace filter if blower is operating.
- DO... Empty freezer/refrigerator completely if electricity is off and prop doors open with a rolled towel or newspaper.
- DO... Pour antifreeze in toilet bowls, sinks and tubs to prevent freezing if heat is off in winter.
- DO... Wash plants on both sides of leaves with water (water softener helps).
- DO... Call plumber to drain heating system if heat is off in winter.
- DO... Remove pets (especially birds) to a clean environment.

- DO NOT... Wipe or attempt to wash walls, ceilings or other absorbent surfaces.
- DO NOT... Use upholstered furniture that was involved in the fire if it can be avoided.
- DO NOT... Use exposed food items, canned goods which have been subjected to excessive heat.
- DO NOT... Use TVs, stereos, computers or electrical appliances until cleaned and/or checked.
- DO NOT... Send smoked garments to an ordinary dry cleaner. Improper cleaning may set in smoke and odors.

WATER DAMAGE

Water is an essential part of many cleaning processes, but under some circumstances, although it usually cleans, it can damage as well. The harmful effects of water is sharply reduced by prompt and wise action. Some procedures are obvious; others require foresight and experience. From their wide background in water damage repair and cleaning, members of the **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FIRE RESTORATION** have compiled this list of **EMERGENCY TIPS** which may be taken when damage occurs.

- DO... Remove as much excess water as possible by mopping and blotting.
- DO... Wipe water from wood furniture after removal of lamps and tabletop items.
- DO... Remove and prop up wet upholstery cushions for even drying (check for possible bleeding).
- DO... Place aluminum foil, china saucers or wood blocks between furniture legs and wet carpeting.
- DO... Turn on air conditioning for maximum drying in summer; open windows to speed drying in winter.
- DO... Remove Oriental or other colored rugs from wet wall-to-wall carpeting.
- DO... Open drawers and cabinet doors for complete drying (do not force, however).
- DO... Remove valuable oil paintings and art objects to a safe place.
- DO... Blot wet carpeting with clean white towels.
- DO... Open suitcases and luggage to dry, in sunlight if possible.
- DO... Punch small holes in sagging ceilings to relieve trapped water (don't forget to place pans underneath).

- DO NOT... Leave wet fabrics in place, dry as soon as possible. Hang furs and leather goods to dry separately at room temperature.
- DO NOT... Leave booths, magazines or other colored items on wet carpeting, floors or surfaces.
- DO NOT... Use your household vacuum to remove water.
- DO NOT... Use TVs, stereos, computers or other electrical appliances while standing on wet carpeting or floors (**ESPECIALLY NOT ON WET CONCRETE FLOORS**).
- DO NOT... Turn on ceiling fixtures if ceiling is wet, and keep out of rooms where ceilings are sagging from retained water.



NIR National Institute of Restoration, Inc.

In MA (413) 525-3270

Fax (413) 525-8126

Outside MA 1-800-486-4976

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE • LICENSED IN MASSACHUSETTS & CONNECTICUT