

Don't Wait to Clean Up or Make Repairs

Residents with home damage after the severe storms and flooding that began July 2 do not need to wait for a FEMA home inspection or flood insurance claim inspection to begin cleaning up and making repairs. Before starting your cleanup, it's important to first check for structural damage before entering your home and report it to local officials.

Before cleaning up

- Take photos of the damage before you begin the clean-up process. Be sure to include photos or videos of the outside and inside of the building, including damaged personal property, and label them by room before you remove anything.
- Photograph the make, model and serial number of appliances such as washers, dryers, hot water heaters, kitchen appliances, TVs and computers.
- Save all repair receipts.
- If you have insurance, separate damaged items from undamaged items. The insurance adjuster may need to document damaged items when conducting an inspection.
- If possible, keep samples of carpet, flooring, wallpaper and drapes.
- After taking photos, immediately throw away flood-damaged items that pose a health risk after coming into contact with floodwaters such as perishable food, clothing, cushions and pillows.

When salvaging and cleaning up flood damaged property

- Always wear protective clothing. This includes long-sleeved shirts, long pants, rubber or plastic gloves and waterproof boots or shoes.
- If the home needs a blue tarp to prevent further damage, install the tarp as quickly as possible.
- Take wet items outside. Your home could be contaminated with mold, which may raise the health risk for those with asthma, allergies and breathing conditions. For detailed tips on cleaning mold safely, review the tips from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [Homeowner's and Renter's Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters | Mold | CDC](#).
- Clean all hard surfaces and items with bleach. If possible, wash wet fabrics in hot water.
- Use caution when entering your home. Before entering your residence, look around the outside for damaged power lines, gas lines and other structural damage. If able, open doors and windows so your house can air out before spending any length of time inside.
- Watch for sharp objects such as protruding nails and screws, aluminum and broken glass.
- Turn off main electrical power and water systems. Don't use gas appliances until a professional can inspect them.
- Check all ceilings and floors for signs of sagging or other potentially dangerous structural damage. Remove all drywall and insulation that has been in contact with floodwaters.

- Throw out any items that cannot be cleaned. This includes items like mattresses, carpeting and stuffed animals that absorb water and cannot be cleaned or disinfected.

How do I apply?

- Visit DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Use the [FEMA mobile app](#).
- Call the **FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362**. Lines are open from **6 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT daily**. If you use a relay service, captioned telephone or other service, you can give FEMA your number for that service. Helpline operators speak many languages. Press 2 for Spanish.
- Visit a Disaster Recovery Center to receive in-person assistance. Two recovery centers are open in **Kerville** and **San Angelo**. To find one close to you, use your ZIP code to search FEMA.gov/DRC.

To view an accessible video on how to apply, visit: [Three Ways to Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube](#).

For the latest information about the Texas recovery, visit fema.gov/disaster/4879. Follow FEMA Region 6 on social media at x.com/FEMARegion6 and at facebook.com/FEMARegion6/.

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FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 833-285-7448. If you use a relay service, such as video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service. Multilingual operators are available. (Press 2 for Spanish).