

# *Frequently Asked Questions*

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**Indoor Air Quality**

**Denver Public Schools**

## **Water Damage that Could Lead to Mold Growth:**

**Q: What is the protocol when water leaks result in wet carpet, ceiling tiles, or other office materials?**

**A:** Water damaged materials has to be dried within 24 to 48 hours to prevent the growth of mold and damage to the building

**Q: What should be done with wet carpet and backing?**

**A:** Carpet must be dried within 24 to 48 hours. The process is:

1. Remove water with water extraction vacuum.
2. Reduce ambient humidity levels with dehumidifier if available. (Contact your Area Supervisor to obtain a dehumidifier)
3. Accelerate drying process with fans
4. Once dry, carpet should be cleaned/shampooed with a DPS approved product (ie. Com-Odor)

**Q: What should be done with wet wood surfaces?**

**A:** The process is:

1. Remove water with water extraction vacuum.
2. Reduce ambient humidity levels with dehumidifier if available. (Contact your Area Supervisor to obtain a dehumidifier)
3. Accelerate drying process with fans
4. Once dry, carpet should be cleaned/shampooed with a DPS approved product (ie. Com-Odor)

**Q: What should be done with wet ceiling tiles?**

**A:** The process is:

1. Discard and replace them.

**Q: What should be done with wet hard surface, porous flooring (linoleum, ceramic tile, vinyl)?**

**A:** The process is:

1. Vacuum or damp wipe with water and mild detergent and allow to dry; scrub if necessary.
2. Make sure under flooring is dry; dry under flooring if necessary.
3. Accelerate drying process with fans.

**Q: What should be done with wet Wallboard (drywall and gypsum board)?**

**A:** The process is:

1. May be dried in place if there is no obvious swelling and the seams are intact. If the wall is swelling or peeling, remove it.
2. Ventilate the wall cavity if possible.

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## **Water Damage (Continued):**

**Q: What should be done with wet vinyl baseboards?**

**A:** Accelerate drying process with fans.

**Q: What should be done with wet Non-porous, hard surfaces (plastics, metals, plaster walls)?**

**A:** Vacuum or damp wipe with water and mild detergent and allow to dry; scrub if necessary.

**Q: What should be done with wet books and papers?**

**A:** The process is:

1. For non-valuable items, discard books and papers.
2. Should be placed in a frost-free freezer or meat locker if possible, freeze-dried (outside company) or lay flat to dry.