



CATAWBA COUNTY FLOODED STRUCTURE DEMOLITION AND CLEANUP GUIDELINES

(Prepared 9/15/04)

Below is a guide involving requirements to follow for structures that were flooded. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive. Special circumstances may require more detailed repair and replacement instructions.

In order to help us better serve you, please contact our office at 828-466-5127 and leave a message with your name, business, address of flooded structure, electrical utility premise number and a phone number where you can best be reached.

Drying out the structure is a crucial issue which needs to begin as soon as possible.

Extreme caution should be exercised and steps should be taken to ensure the safety of those involved. **All employers shall comply with OSHA-NC Safety & Health regulations.** For information call the Raleigh central number at 1-800-NC LABOR. Wet building contents shall be removed as soon as possible.

Prior to removal of wet or damaged building materials, an ASBESTOS ASSESSMENT must be performed prior to any demolition or removal. For information call the NC Health Hazards Control Unit Division of Public Health (919) 733-0820 or WNC Regional Air Quality Agency 828-255-5655, 778-0287, 779-4703.

No demolition or clean-up permit will be required from Catawba County.

Minimum building requirements for flooded structures:

- Wall coverings must be removed to a point above where the material has been submerged or wicking has occurred. If mold becomes visible, contamination has occurred, and it is highly recommended that such material be cleaned and disinfected.
- Remove all insulation from under the flooring and from inside all walls.
- Remove all floor coverings, padding, and carpeting.
- Remove all warped, deteriorated, or otherwise damaged building materials.
- Allow structure to dry thoroughly. Wood framing members should dry to maximum 19% moisture.
- All cloth-covered wiring must be replaced, and romex type wiring where open ends have been submerged must be replaced (under the structure and inside the structure.)
- All electrical devices (i.e. receptacles, switches, fixtures, breakers, fuses, panels, meter bases, etc.) must be replaced if submerged.
- All gas valves and associated wiring for appliances such as hot water heaters, stoves, logs, etc., must be replaced if submerged.
- All furnaces, gas packs and air conditioning equipment, and associated duct systems and insulation must be replaced if submerged.
- All structures having flood waters that affected plumbing, electrical, mechanical, or general building systems must be inspected by the City prior to re-occupancy. All structural, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing repairs are to be permitted, inspected, and approved. (N.C. General Statutes require that certain work be performed by licensed contractors.)
- These procedures are based on information and guidance received from the Office of the State Fire Marshal with the North Carolina Department of Insurance, National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Issues related to Environmental Health, Restaurants, Food Safety, Mold Information, and mosquitoes contact Catawba County Environmental Health Department at 828-465-8270.

Issues related to underground storage tanks and solid waste, contact Department of Environmental & Natural Resources 828-296-4500 and the Catawba County Fire Marshall at 828-465-8232.

Questions regarding disposal of construction debris, please contact the Catawba County Blackburn Landfill at 704-462-1348.

Please contact the Building Services Division at 828-465-5127 for any additional questions regarding this information. A list of our inspectors and their contact information is attached for technical or code questions.