

**National Park Service
Hurricane Recovery and Preservation Tips**

AFTER THE FLOOD: Emergency Stabilization and Conservation Measures

If you have a flooded historic home, this message is for you. Hasty clean-up and decisions can lead to unnecessary loss or demolition. Following these tips may help you to safely salvage your historic home.

PERSONAL SAFETY

- Recognize potential hazards such as slippery mud, gas leaks, loose plaster, and damaged utility lines.
- Turn off all utilities.
- Wear appropriate protective clothing.

DOCUMENTATION

- Before clean up, document the damage in writing and with photographs or videotape.
- Keep and inventory all dislodged historic materials.

Preservation professionals are available to help. Your State Historic Preservation Office can provide a list. See www.cr.nps.gov/nr/shpolist.htm for State Historic Preservation Office contact information.

TEMPORARY STRUCTURAL STABILIZATION

- Provide temporary shoring to protect life and property. Successful shoring can be decrease damage to the historic materials. You may need the assistance of qualified structural engineers or contractors.
- Clean and repair the structure's roof and roof drainage system to protect against future storm damage. Cover holes in the roof with a plastic tarp or weatherproof material.

DRYING

- Remove mud, water, and flood-soaked wall board and insulation.
- Open and clean vents and other conduits.
- Drill small holes to drain water between floors and walls.
- Use caution when removing water from basements or crawl spaces—foundation damage caused by hydrostatic pressure may result.
- Dry the structure, including plaster and wood, *gradually by natural ventilation and generator-powered fans*. Do not use mechanical dehumidification or heating equipment which may cause additional damage or even fires.

- Remove non-historic materials for better ventilation.
- Remove mold once the building has dried out. Using a vacuum with a HEPA filter, remove mold from walls, ceilings and trim, or treat it with gentle detergents or a fungicide. Always test on a small area and continue to monitor for problems.
- Re-secure loose plaster and wood elements or record and remove them.

For additional technical information, see:

Treatment of Flood-Damaged Older and Historic Buildings, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, www.nthp.org

Repairing Your Flooded Home, The American Red Cross, www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_570_,00.html

American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, aic.stanford.edu/

Association for Preservation Technology International, www.apti.org/

American Institute of Architects, www.aia.org/

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October 2005