

Electrical safety during cleanup

Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances, such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers.

If electrical appliances have been under water, you can attempt to have them dried out and reconditioned by a qualified service repairman.

Do not turn on damaged electrical appliances because the electrical parts can become grounded and pose an electric shock hazard or overheat and cause a fire.

Before flipping a switch or plugging in an appliance, have an electrician check the house wiring and appliance to make sure it is safe to use.

When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner (shop vac), follow the instructions to avoid electric shock.

Do not allow power cord connections to become wet. Do not remove or bypass the ground pin on a three-prong plug. Use a GFCI to prevent electrocution.

Never allow the connection between a machine's power cord and the three-wire grounded extension cord to sit in water.

To prevent a gas explosion and fire, have gas appliances (natural gas and LP gas) inspected and cleaned after flooding.

If gas appliances have been under water, have them inspected and cleaned and their gas controls replaced, if necessary. The gas company or a qualified appliance repair person or plumber should do this work. Water can damage gas controls so that safety features are blocked, even if the gas controls appear to operate properly.

If you suspect a gas leak, don't light a match, use any electrical appliances, turn lights on or off or use the phone. These may produce sparks. Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or hear gas escaping, turn off the main valve. Open windows, **leave the area immediately** and call 911, the gas company or a qualified appliance repair person or plumber for repairs.

Never store flammable materials near any gas appliance or equipment.

Check to make sure your smoke detector works properly. Smoke detectors can save your life in a fire. Check the battery frequently to make sure it is operating.

Burning charcoal gives off carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide has no odor and can kill you. Never burn charcoal inside homes, tents, campers, vans, cars, trucks, garages, or mobile homes. Install at least one carbon monoxide detector in your home and check it regularly.

Gasoline is made to explode! Never use gasoline around ignition sources such as cigarettes, matches, lighters, water heaters or electric sparks. Gasoline vapors can travel and be ignited by pilot light or other ignition sources. Make sure that gasoline-powered generators are outside and away from easily combustible materials.

Chain saws can cause serious injuries. Chain saws can be hazardous, especially if they "kick back." To help reduce this hazard, make sure that your chain saw is equipped with the low kickback chain. Look for other safety features on chain saws, including hand guard, safety tip, chain brake, vibration reduction system, spark arrestor on gasoline models, trigger or throttle lockout, chain catcher, and bumper spikes. Always wear shoes, gloves, and protective glasses

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