



After the Flood – Guidelines for moving salvaged items

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As employees who worked at the Waterbury Office Complex relocate, many will need to collect essential papers or other items from their old offices and move these to their new workspaces.

Mold is an allergen that grows quickly in damp conditions. Mold irritates the eyes, nose and throat and can cause serious reactions or respiratory problems for people with allergies or chronic illnesses like asthma. To help prevent health problems due to flood-affected office items, the Health Department provides the following general guidance:

What can be salvaged and moved to a new work location?

- Anything that is clean and dry, and does not smell musty or earthy or appear to have water damage or mold can be moved.
- Carefully inspect anything that is porous: e.g. fabric, padded furniture, books and papers. These items may have been affected with mold or mildew from high humidity in the buildings, even if they were not in direct contact with flood waters.
- Fabric may be washed with detergent and hot water. If washing removes the sight and smell of mold, the fabric item can be moved.
- Essential papers can be copied.
- Non-porous items made of wood, steel, plastic, ceramic, glass or concrete can be cleaned with detergent and water, or a weak bleach solution of no more than 1 cup bleach to 1 gallon of water. NEVER MIX BLEACH AND AMMONIA.
- Any item that cannot be cleaned effectively should not be moved.

What's the best way to unpack and prepare salvaged items for the new work space?

- Open boxes of salvaged items in a well-ventilated area that is separate from active work spaces. This is where you can check items before moving and unpacking in the new work space.

- The Health Department can supply an N95 respirator for anyone who would like one to work in this room. People who have allergies or asthma may be especially susceptible to dust and mold, etc., and should not go into this room.
- For employees moving to the Health Department offices in Burlington, boxes will be brought to the calibration lab on the second floor at 108 Cherry Street. This is a large room with a good ventilation system, bench tables, sinks and a supply of N95 respirators.

For extensive information and resources, go to the Health Department's website at www.healthvermont.gov and select 'After the Flood'