

Chubb Risk Engineering Services:

Post Flood Clean-Up



Flood Clean-Up Simple Checklist

1.	Is your building structurally sound and can it be safely entered? If you have any doubts you should engage the services of a licensed structural engineer to evaluate your premises and provide advice.
2.	If your site has been inundated with water and this has covered electrical wiring, power outlets or other electrical installations (including switchboards, transformers, fixed electrical appliances such as motors, pumps, air-conditioning compressors etc.) organise a licensed electrical contractor to check your premises as soon as flooding has abated.
3.	Your licensed electrical contractor will need to provide your electrical supply provider with a formal document which clears the premises for electrical supply to be reconnected. Your electrical contractor will check or isolate any parts of your electrical installation that have been affected by water; this is to ensure your safety and that of your staff and your clients and also the mains electrical supply.
4.	If your site still remains without power once a licensed electrical contractor has given the all clear, contact your electrical supply provider for further advice.
5.	Disconnect or unplug all electrical equipment affected by water etc and have them inspected by a licensed electrical contractor before use
6.	Do not operate electrical equipment or switches while standing in water or damp conditions.
7.	Switch power off at the switchboard during clean-up operations that use water or high pressure cleaners. This will help prevent contact with electrical equipment and appliances.
8.	Take care when cleaning up your property as sharp objects and other debris can be extremely dangerous. Wear personal protective equipment and don't take undue risks. If you find a fallen power-line on or near your property, keep well away, warn others and call emergency services on 000 (triple zero).
9.	Has your site possibly been contaminated with sewage or other biological or chemical contaminants? If so, personal protective equipment or decontamination may be required before clean-up work can be undertaken.
10.	While fire may not be a major concern in a damp environment, once materials start to dry-out will your existing fire protection systems still be operational and provide the necessary protection for life and property? Are fire pumps still operational, alarm lines to the fire department, extinguishers operational etc.? If not, have you advised your insurance broker and insurer of the fire impairment situation? They may be able to assist in providing advice on suitable precautions to take if your property is vulnerable.
11.	What changes, if any, are required to your emergency evacuation plans? Have access routes changed, assembly points, means to notify of an emergency, are all your wardens still available?
12.	Contractor controls. It's likely that numerous contractors will be involved in assisting you in your clean-up; are your contractor selection, induction, sign-in and monitoring procedures adequate? Are you able to track who is on-site, are they insured and properly licensed/qualified, do you know what they are doing, are they adequately supervised and controlled, have they been inducted to your site and know your safety rules and any specific requirements in place during the clean-up?

Flood Clean-Up Simple Checklist (continued)

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| 13. | Numerous industrial fires in Australia are caused by hot-work such as cutting, welding and brazing and inadequately controlled work on plastic/foam panel walls. A considerable amount of this type of work may be required during the clean-up phase. Do you have adequate controls such as a Hot Work Permit system and Plastic Panel Work Permit in place? Chubb Risk Engineering Services can provide further advice. Please refer to:
www.chubb.com/au-en/business/risk-engineering-resource-centre.html |
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More information can be found at www.chubb.com/au.

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