



FIRE AND SMOKE DAMAGE

After fire damage, it is natural to want to jump right in and clean the home and contents. While timely action can be a help, incorrect action can jeopardize or impede quality restoration and repair, thus complicating your insurance claim. Be sure to read below for some very helpful tips.

DO NOT!

- ▲ DO NOT use food or canned goods exposed to heat.
- ▲ DO NOT attempt to wash any papered or flat painted wall, ceiling or other absorbent surface. Incorrect cleaning procedures could compound the soot residue problem.
- ▲ DO NOT attempt to clean carpets or upholstered furniture. Again, incorrect cleaning could compound problems.
- ▲ DO NOT use electrical appliances, computers, TV's, etc. until they have been checked. They malfunction.
- ▲ DO NOT use ceiling fixtures if the ceiling is wet. A short circuit could result.
- ▲ DO NOT wait to call for professional help!

DO!

- ▲ Move pets to a clean environment, if heavy fire residues are present.
- ▲ Cover carpeted traffic areas with towels or old linens to prevent additional soiling.
- ▲ If electrical service is off, clean out freezer and refrigerator. Leave the doors propped open or place charcoal in the unit.
- ▲ Open windows for ventilation, if weather permits. (Outside temperature is above 60 degrees.)
- ▲ Blow off or brush-vacuum loose smoke particles from upholstery, draperies and carpeting. (Don't rub or scrub!)
- ▲ If heat is off in winter, call a plumber to drain & blow out all water lines. You will also want to pour antifreeze in toilet bowls, tanks, sinks, & tub drains to prevent freeze damage.
- ▲ Send clothing with heavy smoke damage to a professional restoration cleaner rather than a dry cleaning company.
- ▲ Discard all open food packages, the food could be contaminated.
- ▲ Clean Formica and chrome fixtures in the kitchen & bathroom to prevent permanent tarnishing.
- ▲ Wipe residue from porcelain bath fixtures to prevent etching.
- ▲ Wipe the leaves of house plants to remove smoke residue.
- ▲ Take cheese cloth over intake & outlet air registers to capture any loose soot in the air. This is even more effective if you dampen the cheese cloth.
- ▲ Change the air filter on your furnace if it uses forced hot air.
- ▲ Retain a Restoration Contractor to board up open windows, roofs, or other penetrations in order to prevent additional damage.