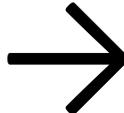


# Is Your Home in a Flood Zone?

Yes  No  Unsure

Prior to beginning reconstruction homeowners should make sure they know if their home is in a Flood Hazard Zone, also called a Flood Plain. Flood hazard zone status is important because buildings in “100 year” flood zone where the cost of rebuilding equals or is greater than 50% of the value of the building, must be rebuilt to meet Flood-Resistant Construction standards and may need to be elevated above the *base flood elevation*. For more information on Flood Resistant Construction standards please review information on FEMA’s website at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/14983>. If you find that your home is in a flood hazard zone, you will need to obtain a Damage Assessment Inspection. You can contact your city or county’s flood plain administrator to get more information on damage assessment inspections.

Flood Hazard maps are available online. The Harris County map is available at <http://www.harriscountyfemt.org/>. Upon visiting the site input the address of your home and it will pull up the flood status. Searchable FEMA Flood Hazard Maps are also available at: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search>.



## Mold and Microbial Growth in Flooded Homes

Mold and mildew growth will be present, to some extent, in almost all homes that have been flooded. Creating conditions that limit mold, mildew and bacterial growth is the main goal, beginning the day the floodwaters recede.

FEMA has a five-part process for reducing the potential for microbial growth and getting your home ready for reconstruction.

1. **Air Out** – Open all doors and windows to create as much airflow as possible. If you have a ventilated attic, open the attic access door. Fans can be useful but do NOT plug them into an outlet that was submerged in the floodwaters.
2. **Move Out** – Remove everything that is movable from the flooded areas.

3. **Tear Out** – Remove flooded carpets and other floor coverings, remove cabinets and built-in furniture that was below or partially below the flood line. If your high water line was 30 inches or less above floor level, remove sheetrock and insulation in line 4 feet above the floor. If the high water line was more than 30 inches remove sheetrock and insulation to ceiling height.
4. **Clean Out** – Remove all debris and spray all surfaces exposed to flood water with a commercial mold control product. Chlorine bleach is good for removing mold and mildew from hard and relatively clean surfaces but is much less effective on framing, sheathing and subfloor materials than the commercial products.
5. **Dry Out** – It is very important to give your building time to dry out before replacing floor coverings, insulation and drywall. Fans and dehumidifiers can speed the process. Please note that using your air conditioning system to dry the house often just spreads any mold or bacteria into the duct system where new colonies will grow.

FEMA Cleaning Flooded Buildings Factsheet - <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/31368>