

# DISASTER RECOVERY

## FACT SHEET

# REPAIRS Flood Damaged Buildings

### Joinery

Do not rush into repairing things until the timber has had a chance to dry. A door may have swollen and jammed while it is still wet. Do not trim it off while wet. Wait until it is dry – it will probably fit again then. It may help to take off the architraves to help drying.

### Particle Board

Particle board is likely to lose strength when saturated and re-dried. Any parts carrying load should be very carefully checked, particularly if they show any sign of swelling, before they are re-used.

### Plaster Sheet

Plaster sheet is very weak when wet but may recover its strength when dry. If it is obviously damaged, get any load off it and let it dry – it will probably be alright, particularly if reinforced with glass fibre.



### Brickwork and Concrete Blockwork

Mud on the walls will make them look unsightly and will probably be stuck fairly firmly, but mud will not seriously affect the performance of masonry. The mud should be cleaned off using water, detergent and a good stiff nylon or bristle brush. It is not a good idea to use acid as this could cause staining.

As the walls dry out, there is a fair risk of efflorescence or white salt growth on the bricks or block work. This is not serious and it should stop when the wall is fully dried. In most cases it can be removed by brushing with a bristle broom. Acid treatments may be effective as a last resort but should be used cautiously.

### Floors

Do not attempt to straighten warped or buckled wood floors until they have dried out. Wood and plywood expand when wet, then return to near original dimensions when dry.

Flooring may require replacing, refastening or refinishing, but if there is any uncertainty, wait until after drying is complete to make the decision. Remove floor coverings, to allow the flooring to dry. Mop off excess water as soon as possible.

**DISASTERS  
HAPPEN**



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## **Mould**

It is highly likely that wet lining boards and some timbers will grow mould during the drying process.

Remove it with hypochlorite bleach used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Repeated applications may be necessary as the drying continues. Note that the bleach may affect the colour of some materials.

Wetting for a short period does not cause permanent damage to many building materials but they should be dried out as quickly as possible. Check for hidden pockets of water and think of ways to facilitate the drying. In most cases, especially with masonry materials, drying can take a very long time, possibly months.

Do not repaint walls too soon. Drying will be quicker if furniture and pictures are kept away from them.

## **Brickwork**

Do not rush into brickwork repairs. Wait until there is a fair chance that all movement has ceased before patching any cracks.

Some cracks may actually close up as the foundation dries out. Minor cracks are not serious in brick veneer structures as there is usually a large margin of structural safety.

## **WEBSITES AND PHONE NUMBERS**

**Local Disaster Coordination Centre** *(if activated)*  
1300 652 659

**Rockhampton Regional Council**  
07 4932 9000 or 1300 22 55 77  
[www.rrc.qld.gov.au](http://www.rrc.qld.gov.au)

**Additional Disaster Recovery information**  
Council's website - [www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/CouncilServices/Disaster-Management/Recover-from-a-disaster](http://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/CouncilServices/Disaster-Management/Recover-from-a-disaster)

**State Emergency Services**  
132 500 or [www.emergency.qld.gov.au/ses](http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/ses)

**Department Main Roads Traffic Information**  
[131940.qld.gov.au/Road-Conditions.aspx](http://131940.qld.gov.au/Road-Conditions.aspx)

**RACQ Road Conditions**  
[www.racq.com.au/travel/Maps\\_and\\_Directions/road\\_conditions](http://www.racq.com.au/travel/Maps_and_Directions/road_conditions)



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