



FRED BILOTTO, MAYOR

**City of Blue Island  
Building & Zoning Department**

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## CITY OF BLUE ISLAND “STEPS TO YOUR FLOOD RECOVERY”

### **SECTION 1: REBUILD RESPONSIBLY**

Get a building permit before you start repairs. A local damage assessment and a building permit may be required before you rebuild. Starting work without a building permit could result in fines. Contact your local Building Department before you start to work on your repairs. Please see below for contact information:

**Robert Vasilenko, Building Official (Building)**

13051 Greenwood Avenue, Blue Island, IL 60406

Telephone: (708) 396-7051 / Email: rvasilenko@cityofblueisland.org

**Howard M. Coppari, Floodplain Administrator (Planning)**

13051 Greenwood Avenue, Blue Island, IL 60406

Telephone: (708) 396-7037 / Email: hcoppari@cityofblueisland.org

*Rebuild Smarter.* Elevate electrical outlets, furnaces, A/C. etc. Use flood resistant building materials like closed foam insulation and concrete wall boards.

*Take Advantage of mitigation programs.* Flood insurance policies often include additional funds to protect your home from future flooding. Ask your insurance agent, federal and state grant money may also be available to elevate, relocate, or buy out your flooded home. Check with your local Building Official or Floodplain Administrator.

### **SECTION 2: RETURNING TO YOUR HOME**

*Ask for help.* Contact your flood insurance agent to start your claim. Call your local government for volunteers, if they are available, after a flood has occurred.

*Be safe.* If your home is badly damaged, stay out! Check with the local Building Official. Watch out for damaged power lines, foundation damage, or other exterior damage before you enter the home. If you smell gas or hear a hissing noise, call your natural gas provider.

*Prevent fire and electrocution.* Shut off gas and electricity to the home.

*Check Drinking Water Safety.* Check with your water utility for safety of local water supply before use. Private wells, if any are existing and being used, should be tested and cleaned out after a flood event.

### **SECTION 3: BEFORE ENTERING YOUR HOME**

*Document the damage.* Take photos before a cleanup to document all damages and the high-water line inside.

*Check basement safety.* Do not walk into a flooded basement until the gas and electricity have been shut off.

*Don't rush to pump it out.* Pumping out your basement too quickly could damage or collapse the foundation walls. Talk to a trade professional about how to safely lower the water level.

### **SECTION 4: REMOVE FLOOD DAMAGED MATERIALS**

Protect yourself during the cleanup by wearing boots, gloves, and an N-95 mask.

*Remove all wet items.* Dispose of what cannot be cleaned or dried out, such as insulation, mattresses, carpeting, and drywall. Waterproof vinyl flooring should be lifted off the subfloor to allow for proper drying.

*Remove flooded appliances and water heaters.* In addition to electrical hazards, flood water may be trapped in the insulation and can grow mold.

*Remove unharmed items.* Store items not damaged outside of the home, if possible. Humidity in the home can cause mold growth, even on surfaces not damaged by the flood.

### **SECTION 5: MOLD PREVENTION & CLEANING**

Go to [www.cdc.gov/mold](http://www.cdc.gov/mold).

*Dry your home.* When electricity is safe, use portable dehumidifiers and fans. If mold has already started to grow in your ducts, do not use the furnace or A/C until they have been inspected and cleaned or replaced. Leave walls and floors open to dry completely.

*Check for Moisture.* Before you rebuild, use a moisture meter to check wall studs, subflooring, and floor joists. Target for wood is less than 15%.

*Clean mold & disinfect.* Use a bleach solution to clean surface mold from hard surfaces (no more than 1 cup per gallon of water).

*Removed moldy items.* Once mold starts to grow in items like furniture, carpeting, drywall, insulation, or ceiling tiles, they must be removed and replaced.