Volunteer Guide
CLeanUp & Debris Removal After a Flood

#1 Interior Debris Removal
Step 1: Check with the team lead on debris separation prior to beginning work
Step 2: Remove all flood-affected personal items, be sure to separate out items that can be cleaned or restored
- Appliances
- Furniture
- Carpet
- Fixtures
- Any other nonstructural items
Step 3: Ensure to review the scope of the work order if questions arise about various items

#2 Mucking Out A Flooded Structure
Additional Equipment Needed:
- Shovels
- Wheelbarrows
- Squeegees
Step 1: Remove mud, muck and silt that was deposited in the house by floodwaters
Step 2: Refer to local debris management guidelines on disposal
Step 3: Hose out house after mucking has been completed

#3 Gutting A Flooded Structure
Additional Equipment needed:
- Hammers
- Crow bars/Pry bars
- Nail Pullers (Cat claws)
- Saws (Dry wall/Reciprocating/Circular)
Walls:
Step 1: Remove damaged trim and molding
Step 2: Remove damaged sheetrock
- Remove 2 feet above water line
- Cutting at 4 ft. level allows for replacement of full sheets
Step 3: Remove damaged paneling
Step 4: Remove damaged insulation
Step 5: Remove nails from studs
Step 6: Place all removed materials per local debris management guidelines
Picture provided by FEMA/Marty Bahamonde

#4 Mold Treatment
Step 1: Workers must wear appropriate personal protective equipment
Step 2: Isolate areas to be treated from unaffected areas
Step 3: Ventilate the area
Step 4: Wet all materials to be removed to limit particulate exposure
Step 5: Immediately remove and discard all materials per debris removal plan
Safety Tip: Minimize contamination of unaffected areas and contaminant exposure to workers.
Picture provided by FEMA/Marilee Callendo

#5 Final Cleaning & Sanitizing
Step 1: Use a pressure washer with proper detergent mix (typically 10% detergent solution)
Step 2: Scrub surfaces with brushes as needed
Step 3: Use a disinfectant as needed
Step 4: Rinse surfaces with clean water
Step 5: Remove standing/remaining water with a shop vacuum or pump
Step 6: Thoroughly dry structure to prevent mold growth
Tip: Using box fans in windows facing out of the house is one way of drying the structure
Based on Federal Alliance for Safe Homes "Volunteer Guide"