

How to Handle

WATER DAMAGE

And Your Wood Floors



Most homeowners know *hardwoods and water don't mix*. So, what do you do when a pipe bursts, a dishwasher leaks or your house floods because of too much rain? Although seeing your beautiful hardwood floors under water can seem overwhelming, not all water damage means replacement.

If your floors have been exposed to water, the most important thing to do is act quickly and then call an expert. If caught early, many times water damaged floors can be saved with minor repairs and refinishing, but time is of the essence!

STEPS TO TAKE IF WATER MEETS WOOD

1

STOP THE WATER

Identify the source and stop the water from coming onto your floor. Seems obvious, but sometimes the source of the leak isn't, so it's important to make sure there is no more water.

2

SOAK IT UP ... THEN DO IT AGAIN

Immediately soak up or wet vacuum as much of the water as possible. Once you wet vac, do it again! Wood flooring is porous, so there could be leftover moisture that can lead to more damage.

3

CLEAN THE FLOOR ... CAREFULLY

Use a non-sudsy hardwood floor safe cleaner to wash the areas affected by water. Water damage often leaves behind dirt, grease and oily compounds that can ruin your floor's finish.

4

USE FANS AND DEHUMIDIFIERS

When the water is off the floor, use fans to blow across the area where there was water. Place a dehumidifier in the center of the room to draw out moisture. Run the fans and dehumidifier 24/7 until the floors are dry.

5

CHECK FOR INVISIBLE MOISTURE

A moisture meter is the only way to determine when wood has dried to an acceptable level. Once this has happened, the repairs can begin. If you skip this step, you could be inviting more issues down the road.

6

PREVENT MOLD & MILDEW

We are not mold and mildew experts, so we always recommend contacting a mold remediation company about this. They are specially trained in preventing and eliminating potential mold issues.

CALL IN THE PROS

While quick action on your part is important to remove the water you can see, *calling an expert to assess the damage that may have occurred is critical*. Water does not just affect the surface of your hardwood floors but can and will migrate to the subfloor systems below. A professional will know how important it is to measure the moisture in your floor with a moisture meter and gauge when levels are acceptable to start work.

Our hardwood flooring experts will come out to take a look at the damage and create the most *cost effective plan possible*. If the damage has caused excessive expansion in the floor, which damages the wood, the wood will have to be removed. If this is the case, we will tear out the wood to allow the subfloor to dry completely. We can often replace only the damaged area and weave new wood into the existing to match. Then, after sanding and finishing the floors, you won't be able to tell there was a problem to begin with.



While sometimes it is necessary to replace the entire floor depending on the extent of the damage, our goal is to repair what we can and replace only what is necessary.

HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE CLAIMS



Often times, homeowners insurance will cover water damage to your floors, so don't forget to *check to see if you are covered*.

At Flesher Floors we have helped many of our customers with the process. It's critical to understand what is reasonable and needs to happen to make your floors look new again. For example, if you have an open floor plan, all of your floors may need to be refinished instead of just one room, and if you are covered by insurance, they are responsible for paying for it.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Call David Flesher at Flesher Floors with any questions about your wood, engineered or laminate floors. David has been a flooring professional for more than 22 years and is here to help make your floors beautiful again and avoid future issues. We specialize in installation, repair, sand and finish and custom work.

Check us out at www.flesherfloors.com or call 678-469-2964. We can be reached by email at info@flesherfloors.com. And, don't forget to follow us on Instagram and Facebook @FlesherFloors to read customer reviews and see our work!