

Why **Act Quickly** After Water Damage

WITHIN FIRST HOURS

Water contamination spreads to unaffected areas; stains released from furniture, especially antique, may stain carpet permanently; moisture sensitive surfaces on furniture may turn white; paper goods may be ruined due to moisture absorption and swelling.

Acid and oily soot residues coupled with extreme high temperatures, within minutes, may cause discoloration of plastic surfaces; rapidly cooling hot vaporized oils combined with soot residues may form a difficult to remove film on surfaces; due to heat, some surfaces may expand and contract when cooled, entrapping the soot residues.

WITHIN FIRST DAYS

Furniture in direct contact with water begins to delaminate, swell, and legs may begin to split; drywall (sheetrock) swells and starts to disintegrate (breakdown); bacterial odor may start to become apparent.

In the presence of high temperatures, acid and oily soot residues; grout may be stained; plastic and fiberglass bath fixtures may yellow (especially those extending above the heat line) and furniture finishes may discolor.

WITHIN 3-5 DAYS

In the presence of moisture, mold and mildew may appear along with a characteristic musty odor; moisture-sensitive internal components in organs and pianos begin to swell; metal surfaces begin to rust and door and window casings may swell, distort or delaminate.

In the presence of acid and oily soot residues; painted walls may yellow permanently; metal may corrode and pit; wood furniture may require refinishing; linoleum floors may require replacement; clothing, drapery and upholstery fabrics may become permanently stained.

WITHIN FIRST TWO WEEKS

Mold and mildew, associated with prolonged dampness, sinks roots into organic materials such as jute backings, paper coverings on drywall, paneling, wood, etc.

Acid and oily soot residues may cause carpet fibers, synthetic in particular, to yellow permanently; silver plate is corroded permanently; glass, china and crystal may require replacement due to severe etching and pitting caused by prolonged exposure to the acids

When salvageable smoke damaged finished floor coverings and structural materials are encountered, such as carpeting, fiberglass surfaces, Formica countertops, etc., they should be cleaned at the beginning and again at the end of the restoration project. The key here is to neutralize the acid soot residue as quickly as possible in order to "mitigate" the loss, protecting the surface from permanent damage.