



# Owner of a flood-affected, yellow stickered house?

Building inspectors have checked your house and assessed it as 'restricted' access only. This is shown by a yellow sticker placed on the building. This allows access to remove household goods, water-damaged belongings, water-damaged wall and floor linings and insulations, and to remove silt from under the house.

You may occupy your house before all flood-damaged repairs have been completed, if the building is safe and dry enough.

## What needs to be done to get back into my house?

### Make sure you contact your insurer as soon as you can



- ◆ Record the damage. Make lists and take photos or videos of all damage including flooded property, carpets, soft furniture and any other ruined or contaminated items.
- ◆ Set aside items that can be cleaned. Do not keep unsanitary items in your home.
- ◆ You can start with emergency repairs to make your home safe and sanitary. Keep receipts and records of the work done.
- ◆ Start the drying process as soon as you can. Remove all the water you can, open windows and doors to get in as much air as possible. If you can get fans and dehumidifiers, but use these safely.
- ◆ If you need to remove hard floor coverings, wall linings or structural elements of the property – talk to your insurer first or a suitably qualified professional.

### Check list to remove contaminated or flood-damaged property, materials and hazards.



- ◆ Remove wet wall linings and insulation to allow framing to dry out. Talk to your insurer or contact a builder.
- ◆ Remove all damaged floor linings and wet floor coverings - carpet or lino. Note if the lino is very old it may contain asbestos, seek advice.
- ◆ Remove flood-damaged furniture, whiteware, joinery. This includes kitchen and bathroom cabinets if they are water-damaged.
- ◆ Get the power source checked for safety by a registered electrician. If you have an upper floor unaffected by flooding, isolate the power in the damaged area if possible.
- ◆ Get your gas system checked by a gasfitter. Check if gas bottles have moved, they may have floated and the couplings may be damaged.
- ◆ Check for any structural damage to the building. Foundations or piles may have moved. Either contact us or a qualified professional.
- ◆ Remove silt from under the floor. Wooden floors require 550mm clearance to the ground and there must be adequate crawl space under buildings, approx 250mm - 300mm under the bearers.  
You may be able to occupy the building before the silt is removed, as long as there is adequate subfloor ventilation.  
If your building is well off the ground, you may not need to do this step.
- ◆ If there are trees threatening a house, these may need to be removed.

Contact our **Building Services Team** on **(06) 863 1605**  
For more information go to our website [www.gdc.govt.nz](http://www.gdc.govt.nz) or customer service on 0800 653 800

## Also if you live in a rural area

- ◆ Check the gully trap and that the main drain to the septic tank is clear of silt.
- ◆ Check that the septic tank is not filled with silt.
- ◆ Check the water supply pumps. Most are under the floor and may have been under water and could need replacing or servicing.

## Drying your house out



- ◆ A house will typically take several days or weeks to dry out enough to allow you to move back in again.
- ◆ To help speed up the drying process, ventilate every day by opening doors and windows.
- ◆ Big industrial fans or dehumidifiers will also help. But please make sure your electrical supply into the house has been checked first.

## When the building is dry and you're ready to replace wall linings

- ◆ You can move back into your house before you re-line with GIB.
- ◆ Most of the repairs won't require building consent, but contact our Building Services team first. They will check the moisture content first before you replace the GIB.
- ◆ **If your house was built after 1990** - please contact our Building Services team for advice first about reinstating the bracing.

## What our Building Services team check



### Once you think the building is dry and any damage or hazard has been removed or repaired, contact our team

They will review the yellow sticker by checking:

1. Electrical check. Please provide confirmation from a registered electrician. If you live in a rural area, is the water pump working?
2. Gas check. Please provide confirmation from a gasfitter.
3. Do you have a safe water supply?
4. Is your wastewater system working?
5. Is the house dry enough?
6. Is there silt under the house?
7. Has any other threat such as trees been checked or removed?

**If all the tests above are clear, we will talk with you about moving back into your home.**

Contact us if need silt removed from around your house. We have information on our website <https://www.gdc.govt.nz/services/civil-defence/flood-recovery>

If you're not insured, please contact a welfare agency.

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