

# 8 Ways Water Damage Can Affect Your Home and Health

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If an area of your Utah home or business becomes flooded and water damaged due to a typical disaster like a roof leak or a plumbing pipe burst, you may think it's not a big problem. But, it can actually be a serious situation that can cause serious health effects and significant loss of property value. Below is a list of some of the most common ways water damage negatively impact people and their homes:

## 8 Additional Effects of Water Damage in a Home

One property of water that makes it so damaging in a home is that it dissolves so many kinds of substances compared to many other liquids. In your house, it can break down the structural components of the house and the contents of your home. Here are some of the common damaging effects of water leaking or flooding in your home:

### Health Hazards

After a house becomes saturated with water from a roof leak, burst pipe, or emergency home fire sprinklers, the area is vulnerable to the rapid spread of dangerous bacteria and many other hazardous microorganisms. Without prompt effective treatment, these toxins will contaminate flooring, furniture, HVAC ductwork, possibly insulation, personal possessions, etc. The contaminants can remain long after the water is gone and can cause serious skin conditions, upper respiratory problems, and other health problems.

### Structural Damage

Removing water from a flooded house or commercial building typically requires industrial quality structural drying. Just assuming the structure is dry because the carpet is dry can be a disastrous mistake. It can lead to extreme mold, a weakened building structure, foundation issues, severe health effects, and ultimately very high water damage repair and restoration costs.

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## Electrical Damage

Delaying the repair of water damage can cause an extreme safety hazard. By failing to have the damage inspected and corrected promptly, it may leave an electrical hazard caused by the water to go unnoticed until it's too late. Water damage due to the flooding could lead to a catastrophic fire. So, it's important to manage flood cleanup and repair and inspection as your top priority to prevent additional problems.

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## Mold

When mold spreads in a home, it can cause very serious health effects and property damage. When walls around windows, studs behind walls, attics, cabinets under sinks, basements, and ceilings are moist, and the temperature is around 77°F to 86°F, mold can begin to flourish within just a couple of days. It can be very difficult to eliminate widespread mold growth and prevent it from recurring without professional intervention.

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## Bug Infestations

Domestic insects thrive in moist, warm indoor environments. So, a water-damaged house is a natural oasis for bugs. Such places make ideal breeding areas for roaches, beetles, silverfish, earwigs, ants, mosquitoes, gnats, spiders, and other household pests. As eggs hatch and bugs die, the debris attracts more infestations that will spread unhealthy bacteria in your home.

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## Persistent Bad Odor

Water damage can leave a strong odor that is commonly caused by mildew and mold growth. Trying to mask the odor with deodorizers and air fresheners does not work. Getting the bad smell out of the home requires correcting the water damage.

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## Devalued Property

When the performance of the cleanup and repair of water damage is poor quality, the evidence of the water damage usually cannot be concealed. An appraiser will recognize it even if you paint over the damage or stains, and the bad odor will likely dissuade prospective buyers.

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## Damaged Furniture and Personal Items

Water flooding in your home, of course, affects structural supports, insulation, flooring, walls, etc., and it also destroys or damages furnishings and many other personal possessions. These can include electronics, books, photos, artwork, clothing, etc. Often, by

taking action quickly enough to obtain professional intervention, the effects of indoor flooding can be reversed and many items can be saved.

## **What To Do If You Have Water Damage in Your Home**

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If your home or business is water damaged, you need to take rapid action to prevent additional damage. The longer the problem is left untreated, the more additional damage that can occur. The damage you can see may also indicate worse problems that you can't see. With timely action, water damage restoration costs can be much better managed. Prompt cleanup can often substantially reduce the amount of water damage repair and replacement that will be necessary.

## **For Water Damage Cleanup and Restoration**

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Utah Flood Cleanup is your local water damage restoration company. Our experts specialize in the cleanup, repair, and restoration of residential and commercial property damage from FLOOD, FIRE, or MOLD.

For immediate expert help with water cleanup and damage restoration, call Utah Flood Cleanup at (801) 416-2666 anytime you need us anytime 24 hours, 7 days a week.