# Post-Disaster Home Cleanup

This playbook outlines the steps necessary for homeowners to safely clean up and repair their homes after experiencing a natural disaster. It ensures safety and efficiency are prioritized during the post-disaster recovery phase.

### Step 1: Assessment

Conduct a thorough assessment of the damage to your home. Identify potential hazards such as broken glass, exposed nails, or structural weaknesses. Document all damage for insurance purposes.

### Step 2: Safety Gear

Before starting the cleanup, ensure you have the appropriate safety gear. This includes gloves, sturdy boots, a hard hat, eye protection, and masks suitable for filtering out dust and mold spores.

### Step 3: Services Check

Check and confirm that all utility services (gas, water, electricity) are turned off before cleanup to avoid accidents such as gas leaks or electrical shocks.

### Step 4: Debris Removal

Remove debris in a systematic way. Separate items into categories for salvage, recycle, and trash. Be careful of sharp objects and potentially hazardous materials.

### Step 5: Water Extraction

If flooding occurred, remove standing water using pumps or buckets. Afterward, use fans, dehumidifiers, and open windows to help dry out the interiors.

### Step 6: Disinfection

Clean and disinfect all surfaces to prevent mold and bacteria growth. Focus especially on porous materials and ensure they are properly dried or disposed of.

### Step 7: Temporary Repairs

Make temporary repairs to prevent further damage. Cover roof breaches with tarps and board up broken windows to secure your property and deter theft.

### Step 8: Professional Inspection

Arrange for a professional inspection to assess any structural damages and hidden issues that might not be immediately apparent to the untrained eye.

### Step 9: Restoration Plan

Develop a plan for the restoration of your home. Prioritize tasks based on safety and necessity. Consider hiring professionals for complex repairs.

### Step 10: Rebuilding

Begin the rebuilding process, following your restoration plan. Secure necessary permits, hire contractors if needed, and ensure all repairs are up to code.

## General Notes

### Insurance

Contact your insurance company as soon as possible to report the damage and understand your coverage for disaster-related repairs.

### Health Precautions

Be mindful of your health during cleanup. Take regular breaks, stay hydrated, and be aware of symptoms of stress and fatigue.

### Community Help

Seek assistance from local community groups, neighbors, and governmental disaster relief programs designed to help with post-disaster recovery.

### Financial Aid

Investigate available disaster recovery grants and loans that may help in funding the cleanup and rebuilding efforts.

### Documentation

Keep thorough records of all cleanup and repair efforts, including receipts, for insurance claims and potential tax deductions for losses not covered by insurance.