

Cleaning Up and Returning Home After a Disaster

After a disaster strikes, use extreme caution when [returning home](#). You may be anxious to see your property but do not return to your home before the area is declared to be safe by local officials. Before entering your home, be sure to take the following measures:

- Check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage;
- Keep a battery-powered radio with you so you can listen for emergency updates and news reports;
- Use a battery-powered flash light to inspect a damaged home; and
- If you have any doubts about safety, have your residence inspected by a qualified building inspector or structural engineer before entering.

When [cleaning up damage](#), take the following safety precautions:

- Wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves and gloves;
- Learn proper safety procedures and operating instructions before operating any gas-powered or electric-powered saws or tools;
- Clean up spilled medicines, drugs, flammable liquids and other potentially hazardous materials; and
- Beware of [post-disaster fraud](#) by asking for identification of federal or state officials and safeguarding personal information.

Contact Us

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