

Debris Removal

When cleaning out a flooded home, it is important to plan ahead in order to “Work Smarter, Not Harder”. A little bit of planning ahead of time will help you in the long run

WORK SAFELY AND PROTECT YOURSELF

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Boots, gloves and a N95 mask are the minimum equipment that you need
- Ensure Proper Ventilation – A flooded home without power will get hot and stuffy quickly. Mold will begin growing in as little as two days, so open windows and use fans if available to ventilate the spaces
- Avoid Use of Chemicals – As you clean out the house, don’t use chemicals such as bleach to clean. Bleach is a toxin and can cause more problems
- Protect Yourself from Heat Exhaustion – Stay hydrated and take a lot of breaks.

KNOW WHAT CAN BE SALVAGED AND WHAT CANNOT

Things that must be discarded if wet

Drywall
Insulation
Mattresses, pillows, cushions
Upholstered furniture
Particle board furniture

Things that may be able to be saved

Books
Photos
Solid wood furniture
Appliances (depends on depth of water)

If you are uncertain if something can be salvaged, it may be better to keep it and make the decision later. If you take something to the street and it has value, someone else may pick it up before you get the chance to change your mind!

Each community will determine what they want you to do with debris that is discarded. The diagram on the back of the sheet shows the most stringent requirements – Most communities do not go to this extent. Make sure that you know the requirements in your community before making separate piles, or you may find yourself rearranging your trash in order for them to pick it up. When you do take trash to the street, be careful to:

- Not fill drainage ditches
- Not block fire hydrants, driveways, streets
- Not place debris close to trees, power poles or anything that can impede pickup, as pickup is usually done with heavy equipment.



FEMA

www.fema.gov



www.ema.alabama.gov



US Army Corps of Engineers
www.usace.army.mil

Debris removal guidelines

In efforts to expedite the debris removal process, please follow these rules

Placing debris **near or on trees, poles or other structures** makes removal difficult. This includes fire hydrants and meters.

Debris separation

Please separate debris into the **six categories**, shown below.

Electronics

Television, computer, stereo, phone, DVD player

Large Appliances

Refrigerator, washer/dryer, air conditioner, stove, water heater, dishwasher

Hazardous waste

Oil, battery, pesticide, paint, cleaning supplies, compressed gas

Vegetative debris

Tree branches, leaves, logs, plants

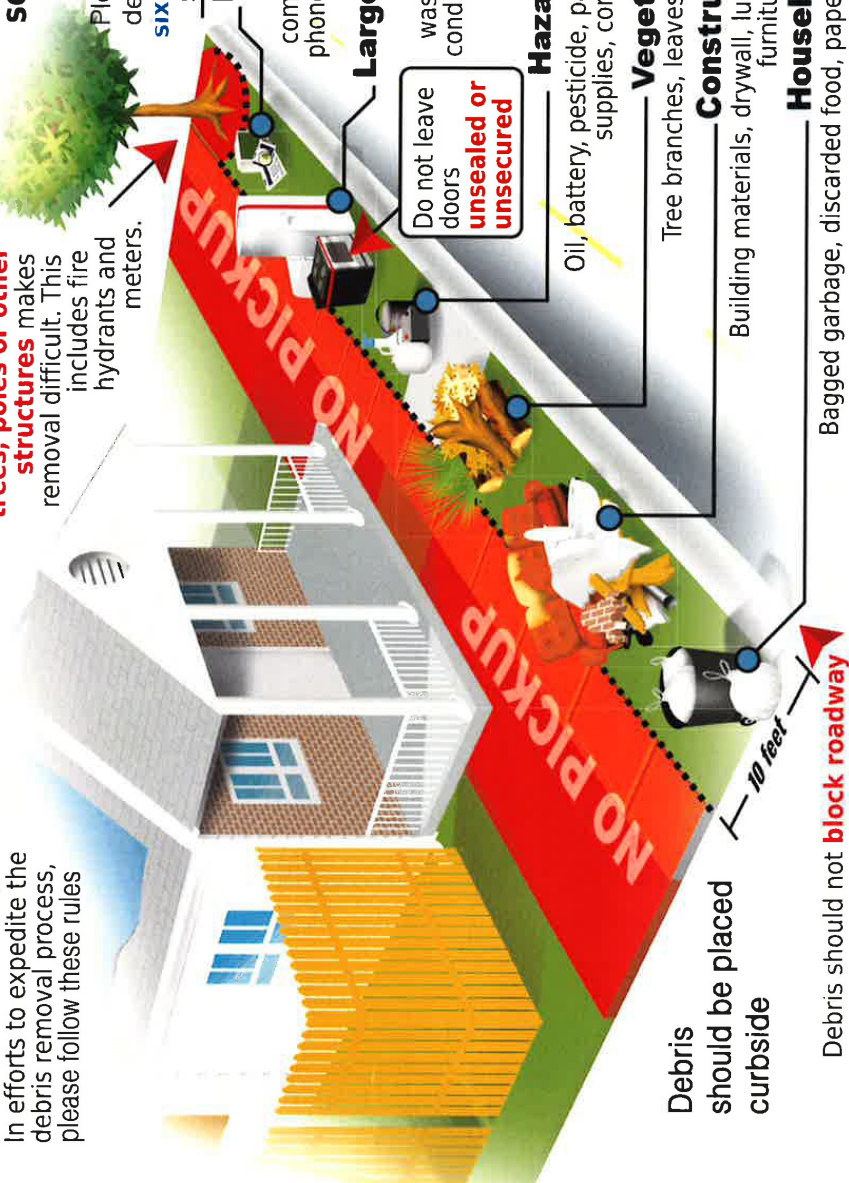
Construction debris

Building materials, drywall, lumber, carpet, furniture, plumbing

Household garbage

Bagged garbage, discarded food, paper, packaging.

Do not leave doors **unsealed or unsecured**



Debris should be placed curbside

Debris should not **block roadway**

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