

Basement Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

☐ Your Basement

- ☐ Get yourself a humidity checker.
- ☐ Make sure that the area is dry enough that mold does not form.
- ☐ Keep the temperature within a normal human-comfort range.
- ☐ Don't let your items sit right on the floor of the basement.
- ☐ Use plastic shelving units to organize your gear.
- ☐ Do a sweep at least once a year.
- ☐ Determine what you actually use and need in your basement.
- ☐ Remove everything that you have been meaning to get rid of.
- ☐ Donate the used items to charity, or sell them.
- ☐ Organize smaller, awkward items into containers so they don't become cumbersome.
- ☐ Arrange the large, bulky, hard to store items in a corner of the basement.
- ☐ Maintain the gutters each spring to repair damage from snow loads.
- ☐ Maintain the gutters each fall to clean out leaves and debris.
- ☐ If window wells drain poorly, install window well covers.
- ☐ Patch cracks in the driveway using cold-mix asphalt patching compound.

☐ Cleaning Up a Flooded Basement

- ☐ Do not walk in a flooded basement if any electrical systems are flooded.
- ☐ Shut off all power or call the electric company or an electrician.
- ☐ Get a sump pump that can handle the volume of water you have in the basement.
- ☐ Use a water or wet dry vacuum for smaller quantities of water.
- ☐ Wash down and disinfect the walls, floor, fixtures and furniture.
- ☐ Check all other systems to insure they were not affected by the flooding e.g. water system, heating and air conditioning vents.
- ☐ Dry everything off.
- ☐ Run fans to remove moisture.
- ☐ Open windows if it's stopped raining.
- ☐ Assess damage to the walls and floors.

☐ Repair and/or replace materials damaged.