

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.