

Post-Storm Safety Tips

Below are post-storm safety tips from the Department of Buildings for New Yorkers:

- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- Before re-entering buildings, check for structural damage that could affect the building's stability.
- Stay away from breaker boxes in flooded basements or areas.
- Do not go into flooded basements if electrical wires are present.
- Turn off electricity at the main breaker or fuse box, even if the power is off in your community. Then you can re-energize the power when it is safe to do so.
- If any electrical wiring, receptacles or equipment were submerged in water during the storm, you must hire a licensed electrician to inspect the equipment prior to returning it to service.

Note: In most cases, any electrical wiring that came into contact with salt water will be required to be removed and replaced. A licensed electrician may be able to disconnect the affected wiring branches to permit equipment in the rest of the building to be returned to service.

- If the water entered your heating or mechanical equipment, be sure to have it inspected by a qualified service technician prior to returning it to service. Failure to do so could produce a shock, endangering your life and may destroy equipment.
- Generators used to power a house should not be connected until after all compromised wiring has been disconnected or replaced.
- Dry all areas and items quickly and thoroughly to prevent mold growth.
- Clean and disinfect all damp items and materials. Mud left from floodwaters can contain sewage and chemicals.