

Why Dehumidifiers are Essential after a Flood



During a flood cleanup, the indoor air quality of a home or office space may be the least of one's worries. However, failing to remove contaminated materials and reduce moisture caused by humidity can present serious long-term health effects. Standing water and wet materials can cause disease, trigger allergic reactions, and continue to damage materials long after the flood, as they are a breeding ground for microorganisms such as mold, viruses, and bacteria.

Dampness of any material promotes the growth of mildew and mold, simple microscopic organisms that thrive anywhere there is a moist environment. Mold colonies can begin to grow in as little as 24-48 hours and will continue reproducing until steps are taken to eliminate the source of moisture. Examples of home damages caused by mold include disintegrating wallboard; swelling, warping, and rotting wood; damp, dirty carpet; and electrical problems as severe as fire and shock.

Molds can also cause serious health issues. All molds, in the right conditions and with high enough concentrations, are capable of adversely affecting human health. The potential for health problems always occurs when people inhale large quantities of airborne mold spores. Even inhaling smaller quantities can impact certain populations more easily, including infants, children, pregnant women, the elderly, and individuals with weak immune systems or existing respiratory conditions. Respiratory problems; nasal and sinus congestion; hacking cough; eye, nose, throat, and skin irritations; headaches; memory loss; mood changes; and aches and pains are all symptoms related to mold exposure.

The first action to take after a flood is to dry out the home or office space that was effected. This will lower the humidity, reduce the moisture, and therefore eliminate mold growth. If the outside air is humid, ventilation simply will not work, and fans will just spread existing mold around.

Dehumidifiers are essential for drying out a home in a warm or hot environment after a flood. They function most efficiently at warm temperatures, such as 80° with 60% relative humidity. Drying time could take several weeks, depending on the initial moisture content and drying conditions. Until a house is reasonably dry, damage caused by mold and decay will continue. A musty odor, signifying growth of microorganisms, will remain long after the flood if the house is not dried out well.

Most portable dehumidifiers, while inexpensive, may only remove one pint of water per hour. Often, they are unreliable, high maintenance, not energy efficient, and only cover a small area - which could make flood clean-up an even bigger hassle.

TRION's new ComfortDry CD55 and CD90 dehumidifiers offer a better solution. They remove 55-90 pints of water per day, greatly shortening the length of time it will take to dry out a flood-ridden home. With a compact and lightweight design, standalone operation, and adjustable feet, the ComfortDry dehumidifiers can be moved between rooms if necessary and can be leveled on uneven surfaces while drying out a home or office space. A built-in controller including CPU, display, and humidistat can be used in standalone operation, provided electrical power and a drain connection for condensate water output are present.



What's more is that TRION's new dehumidifiers are ENERGY STAR 4.0 certified, which means they will remove the water with significant energy savings. The ComfortDry dehumidifiers surpass the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)'s new 2017 energy standards for dehumidifiers. They also can be ducted into a home's central HVAC system for whole-home dehumidification in homes of up to 3500 square feet. All of these factors allow the dehumidifiers to continue being used long after the home has been restored from flooding.