

1979

## CC22 Revised 1979 Emergency Flood Information...Salvaging Furniture.

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STACKS SALVAGING FURNITURE

# ***Emergency Flood Information***

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Take all wooden furniture outdoors and remove as many of the drawers, slides, or other working parts as possible. These will probably be stuck tight. Do not force the drawers with a screw driver or chisel from the front. Remove the back by cutting it out if necessary, and push out the drawers.

After the various moving parts of the furniture have been removed in this way, clean off all mud and dirt, using a hose stream if necessary, and then take them all indoors again and store them where they will dry out slowly. **Do not leave them out in the sun. They will warp and twist out of shape.**

Some furniture, especially that made of solid wood, may be salvaged by regluing. Gluing, however, is fairly difficult to do at home because on many pieces it is necessary to use clamps. Before starting this task, decide whether it is worthwhile to invest in this equipment and whether you have the time and ability to do the work. If you find the work too difficult to attempt, consult a cabinetmaker.

## **Veneered Furniture**

Repairing veneered furniture is so difficult and it requires so many different types of tools that it is not practical to try it at home. Get a cabinetmaker to do the job, or have the store from which you bought the furniture send it back to the factory for repair. If insurance allows part value on flood-damaged furniture, it may be financially worthwhile to apply the allowance on new articles rather than to pay for repairs on damaged items.

## **Removing White Spots**

Furniture that has not been submerged may have developed white spots or a whitish film or cloudiness from dampness. If the whole surface is affected, try rubbing with a cloth wrung out of mineral spirits (paint thinner) or a mixture of 1/2 cup of household ammonia and 1/2 cup of water; wipe dry at once and polish with wax or furniture polish.

For smaller areas or spots on varnished surfaces, rub with a cloth moistened with camphorated oil or oil of peppermint. A drop or two of ammonia on a damp cloth may do the work. Rub dry with a soft cloth and then polish. Cigarette ashes rubbed in with the finger tips are often effective in removing white spots. If all efforts to remove white blemishes are ineffective, it may be necessary to refinish the furniture.

## **Upholstered Furniture**

Badly soaked upholstered furniture may be impossible to salvage. Dry the furniture, then brush any loose dirt from the upholstery.

Shampoo the fabric following directions given for carpets and rugs. Work quickly. If there is mildew on the fabric, wipe it with a cloth wrung out of diluted alcohol (1 cup denatured alcohol to 1 cup of water). It may be necessary to send the furniture to a reliable dry cleaning or storage company for fumigating.

If furniture has been wet for a long time, the stuffing may have become mildewed or may even have started to decay. Cotton stuffing should be thrown away. You can dry, fumigate and reuse padding made of other fibers.

In cases of badly damaged upholstered furniture, especially any that has been submerged, stuffing may be so deteriorated that it needs to be replaced. Springs may need to be cleaned and oiled, and the frame cleaned. If much work is needed, the furniture should be sent to an experienced cabinetmaker or upholsterer unless you are confident of your own ability to do such work.

Contact your county extension agent for further information.



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Leo E. Lucas, Director