

RETURNING TO YOUR HOME:

STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. After a careful study of the situation, the Fire Department **will determine which sections of streets can be safely reoccupied** by their residents.
2. For your safety, before reoccupying your home, **it is mandatory** that you obtain a **Restitution of Property form** from the Fire Department. This form must be signed by you and by an authorized Fire Department officer.
3. Before requesting your Restitution of Property form, please make sure first that your section of streets has been determined as safe by the Fire Department. **You can obtain this information on the City website and digital notice boards, or by calling the Fire Department at 450-473-2730.**
4. To obtain your Restitution of Property form, you must go in person to the Fire Station located at 206 8e Avenue, next to City Hall. You will also receive a brochure titled *Que doit-on faire après des pluies abondantes ou des inondations* (what to do after heavy rainfall or flooding).

WARNING

Residents who reoccupy their homes without obtaining their Restitution of Property form officially signed by the Fire Department may be seriously risking their safety. The restitution form, however, is not a declaration binding on the City with regard to the structural integrity of your home.

5. Once you have your Restitution of Property form, what should you do?
 - 5.1 Follow the instructions on the form that have been check-marked by the authorized Fired Department officer.
 - 5.1.1 Do not reconnect the electrical power as long as there is any water still in your home. It is strongly recommended that you contact a licensed electrician to check that your power supply is safe, especially if your electrical panel has been in contact with water.
 - 5.2 When you return to your home, take photos when you first enter. Do this before you move any furniture or other objects. This suggestion is even more important if you are insured against flooding.
 - 5.3 Open your water faucets and let them run for 10 minutes to make sure the water pipes are clean.
 - 5.4 Clean the rooms that have been contaminated by the flood. Drain the water away and throw away all gyproc (plasterboard), mineral wool (fibreglass), carpeting, presswood, and other porous materials.

Instructions:

You must dry out your home as fast as possible when the water has receded, so that you can enter it without danger.

Be sure to wear safety gloves and a mask (harmful spores will be present in the air). Check the date of your last tetanus vaccination (if more than 10 years ago, you'll need a new "shot"). Don't forget that you are working in spaces that have been flooded by water that may contain bacteria, fecal coliforms, and other harmful substances.

Use fans and open all the windows. Wall materials exposed to flooding must be removed on a ratio of 2 to 1 (for every 1 metre of water, remove 2 metres of wall).

Avoid excessive use of products that contain chlorine bleach (Javel). The fumes can be poisonous if used in large amounts.

- 5.5 Throw away all foodstuffs, including non-perishable items, and any drugs or medical supplies that have been in contact with water.
- 5.6 Sterilize all kitchen or eating utensils with boiling water.

- 5.7 Pay attention to the presence of mould and traces of suspicious substances (musty odours, the smell of earth or alcohol, green or black spots on floors or walls) that could cause health problems. (See the guide available at City Hall and visit our website for more information about signs of mould problems). If you experience any health problems, see a doctor immediately, or seek psychological or social support at a CLSC in your area. (<http://wpp01.msss.gouv.qc.ca/appl/M02/M02RechClsc.asp>)
- 5.8 Make a detailed list of the damages done by water to your property, with photos (see above) or videos to support your claims. Notify your insurance provider. Keep all receipts and proofs of purchase of damaged goods to support your claims.
- 5.9 For more information, please consult the information sheets available from the Montérégie Health and Social Services Agency. (<http://www.santemonteregie.qc.ca/agence/santepublique/directiondesantepublique/inondation.fr.html#.UkmC53-6MV8>)