How To.....Restore a Damaged Building

No matter how well buildings are maintained and kept hygienic and clean, there are sometimes unforeseen events which can cause extensive damage to both building structures and the environment, such as flood, water, fire or even malicious damage.

For example, The Environment Agency estimates that over five million people in England and Wales live and work in properties that are at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. Water damage can also arise from heavy rain soaking through the roof or a broken water pipe spewing water into your premises. Fire damage is another major risk to property, which can also lead to resulting smoke damage.

Act Fast

Using a damage management company is the best way to return back to 'business as usual' in the event of damage. The key benefits of using a specialist service are there are no delays waiting for your insurers to appoint a supplier, whilst ensuring the restoration works are compatible with loss adjuster and insurer processes.

Acting fast can also reduce the health risks from damaged property. For instance, if materials have failed to dry out properly following water damage, this can lead to moisture induced growth of mould colonies which can propagate and release allergenic spores or toxic compounds into the air. Long after a fire is put out, the harm can continue from smoke damage and toxic smoke fumes.

ServiceMaster Clean provides a specialist service, Restoration Response™ which guarantees fast reaction within a few hours of an emergency to start putting the property back to pre-damage condition. Registration is free, so that if an unexpected emergency occurs then help can be quickly provided. Customers registered to the scheme are guaranteed on-site service within two to four hours of an emergency.

Malicious damage restoration

Damage management is not just for major incidents. Restoration Response™ provides malicious damage restoration, including graffiti removal, needle removal, fly tipping and waste and debris removal.

When malicious damage such as graffiti is allowed to remain on a property and is not promptly removed, it invites yet more markings and criminal activity creating an environment that deteriorates the quality of life further and fostering a general fear of crime.

Experience has shown that removing graffiti as soon as it is reported is the best prevention against further graffiti.

For more information about Restoration Response™ from ServiceMaster Clean please visit www.restorationresponse.co.uk or call 0845 762 6828

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How to choose a reputable provider

So how do you know you can trust the company that you decide to use? Firstly you should look for a contractor which is a member of the British Damage Management Association (BDMA). This will indicate the provider adheres to professional standards of care and codes of practice, underpinned by technical and corporate training.

ServiceMaster Clean is a founder member and currently has more BDMA accredited senior technicians than any other company in the UK industry.

Choose a provider that is able to provide a comprehensive service

Look for a provider which is able to give specialist support for a wide range of scenarios such as water damage restoration and mitigation, flood damage restoration, fire damage restoration (including smoke damage), building drying and dehumidification, building sanitisation and document drying and recovery.

Make sure the company is an insured provider of smoke and fire damage restoration services and has completed training in fire damage mitigation, restoration systems and corrosion control.

Building maintenance

Remember that by taking precautions, many cases of damage to buildings can be avoided. For instance, to help avoid water damage make sure you regularly:

- Check wet appliances and pipe work for any leaks
- Look for signs of water penetration in the roofing, exterior walls and foundations
- Clean, inspect and repair gutters and down pipes
- Always turn taps off after use and deal quickly with leaking taps
- Insulate pipes to help prevent unexpected burst pipes due to frost damage and ensure that the central heating is not left off for any length of time during winter
- Check for leakage in supply and return water pipes, pumps, heat / air exchange units and other system components.

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