Structural Drying

- Open enclosed areas (walls, floors)
- Drying may take several days or weeks

Drying Process

- Circulate air across drying surfaces
- Ventilation – exchange air

Dehumidification

- Dehumidification < 50% RH
  - Open system: ventilation
  - Closed system: mechanical dehumidification
- Minimum RH is about 50% with typical home unit.

Measure Humidity

- ½ cup water
- ¼ cup salt
- 75% RH @ 12 hrs.

Temperature Control

- Ambient temperature <72°F
  - Balance evaporation, dehumidification, microorganism growth
- Need both ventilation and heat
Acceptable Moisture Level

- Material type affects potential for mold growth
- Wood moisture >15% may lead to mold growth
- Potential for mold growth if relative humidity >70%

Moisture Meters

Do not enclose wet/damp materials

Saturated Soils

- Soils contain water for a long time
- Moisture moves through concrete into basement in liquid or vapor form.
- Gallons per day

Test for Water Vapor Movement

- Clear plastic taped to surface
  - Watch for several days
  - Moisture accumulation indicates problem
- Basement wall or floor

Mold or Salt

Search for NDSU Flood Information
http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/flood