

Dry Out Before Rebuilding

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The problem: Wood submerged in water will absorb a large amount of water. Rebuilding too quickly after a flood can cause continuing problems such as mold growth, insect infestations and deterioration of the wood and wall coverings.

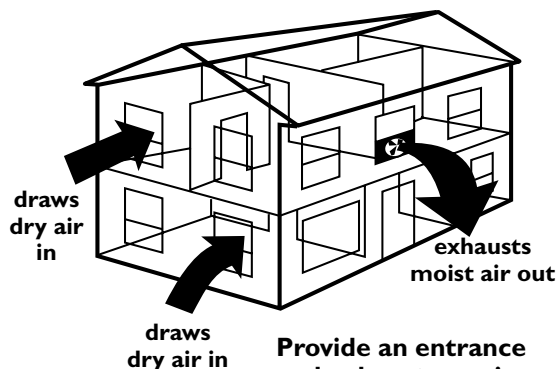
How long until it's dry? It may take weeks for the wood to be adequately dry to close a wall. The drying time will vary depending on the initial moisture content and the drying conditions.

How can I tell if it's dry enough? Test it with a wood moisture meter. Wood should have a moisture content of less than 15 percent before drywall, paneling or other coverings are placed on the wood. Do-it-yourselfers may be able to borrow or rent a meter from a hardware store or lumberyard. Many county offices of the NDSU Extension Service have meters that can be checked out. If

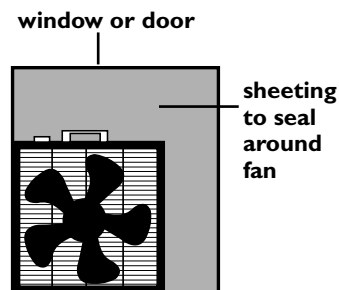
a contractor is doing the work, homeowners should have the contractor verify with a meter that the wood is dry.

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The only accurate way to measure wood moisture content is with a wood moisture meter.

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Provide an entrance and exhaust opening for air.



Place fan facing out in a window or door and seal the rest of the opening.

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