

THIS MOLD HOUSE



*More tips for
mending your
broken home*

What is restoration dry cleaning?

Can textiles such as drapes, linens, rugs and clothing be saved through this special dry cleaning method?

Your local dry cleaner may be fantastic at getting out red wine, but when it comes to mold, dye migration and water stains, your best chance at reclaiming your textiles will come from a specialist.

WHAT MAKES A DRY CLEANER A RESTORATION SPECIALIST?

The machines that restoration dry cleaners use agitate at higher speeds and the specialists stock detergent formulas specially created for each contaminant, such as mold, soot or smoke. Many have the time-tested ability to eyeball the damaged items and tell if they are worth restoring.

HOW BEST TO USE A RESTORATION DRY CLEANER?

Insurance companies often dispatch these individuals to homes and businesses to assess what can be saved. The cleaners can do on-site inventories. In a catastrophe such as Hurricane Katrina, however, insurance companies are more likely to issue a check and close out the case than inquire about reclamation of specific items. Because restoring fine textiles is often less expensive than replacing them, it may be in your best interest to hire a restoration dry cleaner.

HOW TO NEGOTIATE WITH A CLEANER?

Insurance companies often only pay if the cleaner successfully cleans the item. Try to negotiate a similar deal, but expect the company to be choosy about what it agrees to restore.

HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE DAMAGE ON YOUR OWN?

The answer varies depending on the type of stain.

Mold: If mold is still "fuzzy," you have a chance of saving the textile. If the growth has advanced to dark spots that cover a majority of the item's surface, it may be too late. If an item was in a room where mold grew, it still should go through an "extract and kill" sequence so that the spores can be eradicated.

Dye migration: If items were in a drawer and the dye from one garment transferred to the other, the stained garment can likely be saved by lifting out the dye.

Waterstains: Most water marks can be removed.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR WITH PARTICULAR ITEMS?

Window treatments: If only the bottom few feet of your draperies got wet, there is a chance that they can be restored. Many drapes already have some degradation due to their exposure to sunlight. Hold curtains to your ear and pull on the fabric. If you hear it crack or tear, it is an indication of sun damage and that item may shred in the restoration process.

Rugs: First use a vacuum that can extract the water and then hang the rug to dry.

The age and wear and tear on the rug will affect the restoration. Valuable wool rugs can be taken to an Oriental rug specialist.

Bedding and towels: If the linens were even in a room with mold, they must be decontaminated.

Tablecloths: Cloth tablecloths should be treated as any other textile.

Down feather-filled items: A mattress pad should be tossed as the cost of restoration is similar to the cost of a new one. The fabric of a down-filled comforter can be saved, but the feathers should be replaced.

To find a restoration dry cleaner, check with your dry cleaner, your insurance agent or The Certified Restoration Drycleaning Network at (888) 379-2532 or crdn.com.

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Karen Sommer Shalett, staff writer