

2. Salvage of Specific Materials

Before You Begin Salvage

Ask yourself:

- Is it safe to enter the disaster site? (*Sheet 1.2 Safety During Salvage*)
- Are my eyes and body adequately protected? (*Sheet 1.2 Safety During Salvage*)
- Do I have a notebook/pen and camera? (*Sheet 1.3 Documentation of Disaster and Salvage*)
- Do I have enough safe space for work and storage? (*Sheet 2.4 Space Planning*)
- Do I have all the supplies that I need? (*Sheet 1.4 Salvage Supplies*)
- Do I have enough help and do I know how to contact HERN friends if I need more support? (www.bchern.ca)
- Do I know my priorities or the salvage order? (*Sheet 2.2.1 Salvage Priorities*)



Your salvage approach will depend on the condition of the objects:

Objects and belongings can be affected by a disaster in a variety of ways. The challenges ahead may seem overwhelming at the beginning, but the salvage of collections can be dealt with in manageable chunks.

The table below summarizes what you need to do to salvage objects that have different types of damage. See the sheets in this chapter for specific directions.

Typical Condition of Objects After Fire or Flood and How to Salvage Them

Dry	Dry Mouldy	Dry, Dirty, and/or Sooty	Wet Mouldy	Wet and Dirty or Sooty	Wet and Broken
Move them to a safe location to keep them dry and clean.	Isolate and bag them to prevent mould from spreading.	Move them to a dedicated space for cleaning.	Isolate and dry immediately or bag and freeze them to buy time.	Follow directions on sheets in this chapter for specific materials.	Keep pieces together and follow drying directions for specific materials.

