Properly categorizing water is the most important step in the water loss restoration effort. How you categorize the level of water contamination establishes how you will mitigate the loss.

The Different Categories of WATER

CATEGORY 1

Sanitary water. Does not pose a risk to health. Examples: broken water supply lines, tub/sink overflows, melting snow and ice, falling rainwater, and appliance malfunctions involving water-supply lines.

CATEGORY 2

Significant contamination. No longer sanitary. Poses a risk to health. Examples: overflows from toilet bowls, broken water beds and aquariums, and discharge from dishwashers or washing machines.

Category 2 can become Category 3 depending upon the length of time and the temperature.

CATEGORY 3

Grossly contaminated. Can be pathogenic. Examples: sewage, wasteline backflows, flooding from streams, rivers, seawater, and water from weather related events.

REGULATED HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND MOLD

Comply with local laws. May need a Specialized Expert to assess damages. Posing potential or recognized health risk. Examples: chemical spills, oil spills, solvents, asbestos, mercury, lead, fuels, and molds.

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