

The Continuing Effect of Water Damage

MINUTES

- Water contamination spreads to other areas
- Furniture may stain carpet permanently
- Moisture-sensitive furniture finishes discolor
- Paper goods are ruined due to absorption, swelling and warping

HOURS

- Furniture delaminates, swells, splits
- Pressed wood swells and disintegrates
- Bacterial odor becomes more apparent
- Uncoated metal surfaces may tarnish
- Normal household odor becomes more apparent

DAYS

- Fungi appear, odor worsens
- Drywall swells and disintegrates
- Uncoated metal surfaces begin to rust
- Door and window casings swell and distort
- Wood decking, joists and studs begin to swell, warp, and/or split
- Electric components may malfunction
- Occupants with respiratory problems or compromised immune systems experience distress

WEEKS

- Fungi associated with prolonged dampness damages natural fibers, paper coverings on drywall, paneling, wood, etc.
- Wood components warp and split, while chemicals within wood dissolve, discolor or destroy finishing
- Claim costs escalate dramatically
- Demolishing and replacing contaminated materials may be necessary
- Serious occupant health hazards abound