



Health Safety & Wellbeing Alert: Water Damage

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Health Safety & Wellbeing Alert is to provide information about potential risks associated with water damage and outlines measures to ensure a healthy and safe work and study environment.

CONTEXT

Following the storm event on 13 February 2024, some of our buildings experienced water damage. The Buildings and Property Division (BPD) is conducting ongoing assessments and undertaking the necessary repairs, starting with the most severely impacted areas. Professional contractors are engaged to undertake thorough cleaning, water extraction and remediation works.

UNDERSTANDING WATER DAMAGE

BPD has deployed fans and dehumidifiers to dry identified wet areas. As water dries up, you may notice “stuffy” air in some indoor areas.

Where possible, it is good practice to allow fresh air into affected areas to help reduce moisture levels and facilitate drying.

If you notice any visible signs of discolouration on surfaces, potential mould growth or damage to ceiling tiles/carpets, please report it to BPD and the necessary remedial action and repairs will be taken.

Moulds are common in most indoor and outdoor environments and usually pose no health risks to people. However, exposure to excessive mould can present a health risk particularly to individuals with pre-existing health conditions like asthma.



FIGURE 1: Example drying machine & safety signage

YOUR ROLE IN MAINTAINING A HEALTHY AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

We rely on your active participation to help identify and report issues promptly.

If you identify a physical safety hazard (e.g. dislodged or hanging ceiling tiles or fixtures):

1. Remove yourself and others from the area immediately.
2. Restrict access to the area by placing a tape and a “Do Not Enter” sign.
3. Report the issue to your supervisor or your local Operational/Resources team and contact the BPD Helpdesk on 9902 0222. You can also report the hazards and incidents into our [SARAH system](#).

Only authorised personnel with proper protective equipment should access areas undergoing clean-up.

CALL TO ACTION

- Keep an eye out for water damage, surface discoloration and musty smells. Report to BPD if you see any.
- Avoid areas that sustained significant water damage until safe to reoccupy.
- If you feel unwell, report it to your Supervisor and the Occupational Health team as soon as possible.
- If your usual work or study space is affected, discuss alternative options with your Supervisor.

KEY CONTACTS:

BPD Helpdesk / HSW Helpline - 9902 0222