



mighty mac

it's beary clean

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**SEWER
BACKUPS**

The residue from sewer backups contains bacteria that are dangerous to human health. Surfaces and objects contaminated by such sewer backups or ground water intrusion should be *thoroughly* cleaned and treated with an appropriate antimicrobial before returning them to use. Carpet, Sheetrock and other absorbent materials may need to be discarded depending on the severity of contamination.

Unlike many other types of damage, sewer backups are especially troublesome because the areas you don't see can be as important as areas you do see. The pile of rugs and carpets, as well as the padding provide breeding places that may not be reached by antimicrobials. Hidden recesses within walls, floors and under cabinets should be opened for drying and direct contact by antimicrobials.

Since objects may look "clean" while retaining harmful bacteria it is important that germicidal treatments be applied in a thorough and methodical way so that all areas are treated. It is important to allow sufficient time between applications for the antimicrobials to take full effect.

When children or pets are present, it is sometimes advisable to test after treatment to be certain that floor surfaces and furnishings have been restored to a sanitary condition. This can be accomplished by taking swab samples and incubating them in a culture medium to measure bacterial activity. Local health departments may provide this service to citizens.