**Water Damage: What to Do**

* **Shut off water:** Locate the main shut off valve (probably in the basement) and turn it clockwise (to the right).
* **Walk carefully:** With all that water, floors may be very slippery. Be careful not to fall!
* **Get rid of the water:** Mop up as much as possible. To improve drying, turn on the air conditioning during the summer or open the windows in the winter.
* **Move valuables:** Remove artwork, family photos, electronics and other valuables and store them in a safe, dry place.
* **Get furniture off the wet floor:** Get everything out of the standing water. Arrange furniture and cushions so they’re not touching each other or anything else to maximize airflow and speed drying.
* **Get rugs off the wet floor:** If possible, hang rugs up in a dry space. At the very least, they should be removed from the room to allow flooring and carpets to dry. They should not be hung on a railing or against a wall as the moisture will spread.
* **Clear out the wet area:** Move everything out that can be moved out. This will help dry both the floor and the wet items.
* **Open and air out all containers:** This includes storage boxes, suitcases, trunks and other containers. Never assume that because it was in a container, it didn’t get wet.
* **Dry clothing:** Dry all clothing ASAP. Hang leather garments and furs to dry at room temperature. Leave valuable items to the professionals.
* **Contact a reputable water mitigation company:** Water damage is very time sensitive. The faster professionals can get there, the faster they can stop the source of the water to prevent further damage. Even after the water stops, they will need to act fast to prevent mold growth.