



Flooded Basements and Electrical Hazards | Preventive Measures

HVAC, appliances and electrical system components, including service panels, meters, switches and outlets, can easily be damaged and cause hazardous conditions even if they are only inundated by water for a short period of time.

If you live in floodplain you should consider raising all of these components to at least one foot above the 100-year flood elevation.

If you don't live in a floodplain but have a higher risk (home sits at the bottom of a hill, previous issues with sump pump failure, etc.) for receiving water in the lower level of your home you should also consider raising all of these components to a higher elevation.

Moving these systems can help you avoid costly repairs and recover quicker in the event water or sewer backup flood your basement.

Electrical systems and appliances affected by water can increase the potential for fires caused by short circuits.

Raising electrical systems and appliances can help you avoid fire, damages and costly repairs.

If your electrical system and appliances have been damaged by floodwater or sewer backup. Electric service should not be restored until a licensed and bonded electrician has inspected the system and replaced a necessary components. All electrical wiring, panels, switches, and outlets that have been affected by water must be replaced or reconditioned per the National Electrical Code. Once the system replacements have been made and it is safe to reenergize the system.