0:00
[Music]
0:09
Before you remove any flooring there are a few things you should consider to keep yourself
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safe, like what protective gear to wear and other health hazards like lead based paint
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and asbestos in vinyl flooring.
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Depending on the type of flooring and the extent of the water damage, you may be able
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to remove the flooring from the subfloor, clean it and reinstall it.
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You may want to consider the time it will take to save flooring materials and the cost
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of replacing them when you decide whether or not to salvage them.
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If you choose to reuse these materials,
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you may want to work on removing them after most of your cleanup work is complete
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so you can start the drying process as soon as possible.
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Floors like hardwood and ceramic tile may be removed, cleaned, dried and re-installed.
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Concrete floors can also be cleaned and dried.
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To remove hardwood floors that will be cleaned and reinstalled: Remove wooden baseboards
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by cutting any caulk with a utility knife and prying them off with a small prybar. Carefully
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remove a plank with a crowbar every few feet to reduce buckling caused by swelling.
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If planks are tongue and groove you may need to ask a professional about the best method
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to remove the flooring. Clean and dry all planks before reinstalling.
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Flooring materials that easily absorb water will need to be removed.
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They cannot be thoroughly cleaned, and may warp and lose stability.
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This includes floor coverings like vinyl, linoleum, laminate, or similar materials.

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Carpeting, padding, and tack strips will also need to be removed and discarded.
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Wooden subflooring like plywood and manufactured fiber board will also need to be discarded.
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If your home has vinyl asbestos tile and it is damaged after the flood, hire a trained
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and licensed asbestos professional. They can safely remove the materials to protect you
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and your family from the dangers of asbestos like lung cancer and mesothelioma.
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After you have removed the damaged flooring, make sure all structural parts of the home
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are thoroughly dried before replacing any flooring.
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For more information on disaster recovery visit epa.gov/flooded-homes .