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[Music]
0:08
Before you start any drywall, plaster or paneling removal there are a few things you should
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consider to keep yourself safe, including what protective gear to wear and health hazards
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like lead based paint and asbestos .
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Drywall or plaster walls that have been saturated, should be removed because the materials cannot
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be completely cleaned and dried and can cause future health hazards.
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To determine how much of the wall to remove, look for the water level line from the flooding.
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If the water level was less than 2½ feet, the wall material should be removed to a height
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of 4 feet to facilitate reinstallation of full sheets of drywall.
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If the water level was more than 2½ feet, the wall material should be removed to a height
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of 8 feet or the ceiling junction. Installation of full sheets of drywall is more cost effective
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than cutting and installing specific heights of wall covering.
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To safely remove the walls, first remove items mounted to walls and the face plates of switches
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and outlets. If you are planning to save and clean trim
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and paneling: Use a box cutter to cut any caulk from the
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moulding. Tap a pry bar into the back side of the molding
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to loosen it Use a crowbar or hammer claws to gently pry
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the molding loose Remove protruding nails and screws
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If you are not planning to save the molding, bend the nails over to prevent accidental
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puncture wounds.
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Before you begin removing the wall material, turn off the power breaker in that area to
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prevent accidental electrocution. Mark a line and cut the wall at a panel seam
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above the flood level line. Cut the wall with a drywall or reciprocating
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saw. Adjust the blade so its depth equals wall
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thickness to avoid cutting studs or wiring. Remove the wall panels in large pieces to
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minimize dust and place them in sturdy garbage bags for disposal.
2:12
Remove nails and screws from the studs. Fibrous wall insulation saturated by floodwater
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should be removed completely. Clean and dry the area thoroughly before replacing
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the wall material
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For more information on disaster recovery visit epa.gov/flooded-homes
2:33
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