

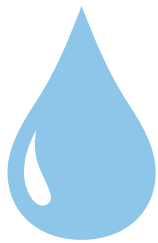
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Did you know there are different categories?

The different categories of water refer to the source of the water damage. There can be multiple sources, and in turn have potential contaminants. Water cleanliness plays a major role in the risk that the water poses to anyone or anything that comes in contact with it. Additionally, it can play a role in determining how complicated the restoration can be.

The IICRC water classification says the categories of water “refer to the range of contamination in water, considering both its originating source and its quality after it contacts materials present on the job site”.

What does each category mean?



CATEGORY 1 (e.g. Clean Water)

Water that emanates from a sanitary water source and does not pose substantial risk if you are exposed to it. Examples are broken water supply lines, sink or shower overflow, refrigerator line breaks. Basically anything that involves fresh water supply lines.



CATEGORY 2 (e.g. Grey Water)

Water contains significant contamination and may cause discomfort or illness upon exposure. This can contain potentially unsafe levels of bacteria, viruses, or other contaminants. Examples would be dishwasher or washing machine overflow.



CATEGORY 3 (e.g. Black Water)

Water is grossly contaminated. It can contain toxins or disease-causing pathogens that cause significant adverse reactions after human exposure. Examples would be sewer backup, flooding from rivers or streams, toilet overflow with feces.