



LESSON 9: FLOOD RECOVERY

Last updated: March 2026

Aim

- To understand how to recover from flooding (although it is recommended that children aren't a part of the clean up, it's important that they know about the recovery process).

Lesson Objectives

- To understand the different stages of recovering from a flood.
- Be aware that recovering from flooding can take a long time.

Assumed Prior Knowledge

- A basic idea of what might happen after a flood, for example clean up, move out of your home.

Resources

- Video showing the residents of Whalley recovering from a flood in 2015:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7TvtgH7dWc&feature=emb_logo.

Assessment

- Flood recovery homework sheets.

Lesson Outcomes

- To understand what happens after a flood event.
- To name three things you do as a part of the recovery process.

Differentiation

- Visual – Pupils will learn through reading the slides, looking at the various images on the slides and watching the video.
- Audio – There will be class discussion about the recovery process.

Skills For Life

- Knowing what is involved in the recovery process of a flood.
- Literacy skills - making notes off the video (the teacher should decide whether the pupils make notes based on their age).

The blank worksheets for this lesson can be found as a separate download within the lesson 9 page of the Flood Hub KS2 learning section. The answers for the worksheets can be found at the end of this document.

Key words within the PowerPoint lesson are highlighted in orange and the definitions of these words can be found in the glossary, which is available to download off the homepage.

These lessons have been produced by [The Flood Hub People](#) for The Flood Hub.
Access our learning resources here: <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/learning/>.





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Slide 1 – Flood Recovery

- Run through the aims and objectives with the class.

Slide 2 – Flood Recovery

- Question for the class - **what do you think would happen during a flood, who might come to help?** This will start the class discussion.
- Reveal answers: *Environment Agency, the police, council, Fire and Rescue, water companies, and voluntary groups.*
 - Explain to the class that the number of agencies/services helping would depend on how severe the flooding was, and how many people were affected.

Slide 3 – Flood Recovery: During a Flood

- There could be floodwater outside, a small amount or several feet of water could enter your home and you might need to be rescued.

Slide 4 – Flood Recovery: During a Flood

- If you flood, you could have to stay away from your home until the floodwater has gone and it is safe to return, if there was lots of damage to your home you may have to stay away for much longer.

Slide 5 – Flood Recovery: During a Flood

- Emergency recovery centres may be set up where people can go to be safe, access food, drinks and keep warm and dry. They could also have supplies of cleaning products to help people start to recover.

Slide 6 – Flood Recovery: Cleaning Up

- When you are allowed return home, adults who are cleaning up should cover any open sores or cuts with plasters and they should not turn on anything electrical until told it's safe to do so. There will be lots of cleaning up to do as floodwater contains lots of nasty bugs and substances, you wouldn't want in your home.

Slide 7 – Flood Recovery: Cleaning Up

- Items in your home which aren't in contact with the floodwater or are made of material that doesn't soak up water (non-porous) may be cleaned by an adult with hot water and bleach or detergent and can be used again. Electrical items or softer items, such as furniture which do soak up water will have to be thrown away.



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Slide 8 – Flood Recovery: Cleaning up

- There may be lots of activity outside their house and in the surrounding areas as the streets get cleaned.

Slide 9 – Flood Recovery: Cleaning up

- If you do have to throw some of your possessions away, the council may provide skips where people can dispose of their items.

Slide 10 – Flood Recovery: Cleaning up

- Floodwater can cause damage to the plaster on your walls, the insulation and possibly the timber structure (if their home has one).

Slide 11 – Flood Recovery: Drying out

- Depending on how severe the flooding was, it could take from days or even months to clean and dry out your home properly and stop mould and damp coming back. A dry certificate will usually be needed before any repair work begins.

Slide 12 – Flood Recovery: Repair work

- Here is a short list of some of the repairs which will probably be necessary if floodwater has entered your home.

Slide 13 – Flood Recovery: Damages

- The two images show properties which have structural damage caused by flooding. The force and pressure of the water could even damage your home so much that it becomes structurally unsafe.

Slide 14 – Flood Recovery: Damages

- It might not be possible to get the repairs done quickly as there could be hundreds of houses that need repairing. This could mean that people could spend very long time away from home, maybe school too!
- There could be lots of disruption, all your possessions could be in bags and boxes and you may have to move more than once.

Slide 15 – Other effects of flooding

- Flooding doesn't just affect us in ways that can be seen (physically), there are other effects. Mental health and wellbeing is the way we feel mentally as well as physically. There can be lots of disruption caused by flooding and this can leave people feeling stressed, anxious and upset and existing health conditions can become worse.



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Slide 16 – Flood Recovery

This slide can prompt a class discussion, ask the children what they think it would be like to be affected by flooding? How could it make people feel? The answers are below but not limited to:

- Being flooded can be a dangerous and scary situation.
- It can make people sad when they lose their personal possessions.
- They might not know what's happening or when things will be back to 'normal'.
- You might have to move out of your home and stay with family, friends, in rented accommodation, or a hotel.
- You might not be able to go back to school as it may also have flooded.
- You might feel lonely as you may not be able to see your friends as much.
- Recovering from the effects of flooding can be a very stressful time for you and your family.
- Feeling nervous whenever it rains or whenever there is a flood warning.

Slide 17 – Flood Recovery: Cleaning Up

John Whipps film documents the flooding caused by Storm Desmond in Whalley, Lancashire in 2015.

It covers:

- The background.
- The events leading up to the flooding.
- The actual flooding and what happened.
- The response to flooding.
- The recovery.
- Looking back after 5 months and getting back to 'normal'.
- Looking to the future.

The pupils could be asked to write notes on the points above, depending on their age. After they have written notes, they could either write these in their books or it could be a class discussion.

Slide 18 – Homework

- Ask the class to fill in the sheets handed out to them in class.



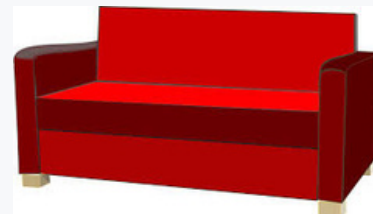
HOMWORK: WHICH OF THESE ITEMS COULD BE CLEANED AND USED AGAIN?

Circle the items below which you think could be cleaned and used again.

Games Console



Sofa



Pots and Pans



TV



Carpets



Plates and Dishes



Books



Kitchen Units



Toys



Laptop /Tablet



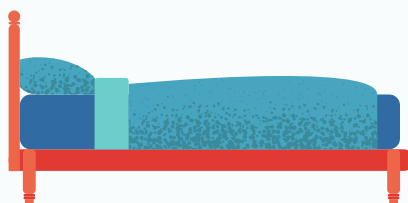
Phone



Cutlery



Bed





HOMEWORK: FILL IN THE BLANKS

Can you fill in the spaces with the correct words from the bottom of the page ?



After a flood you may be left with lots of damage to your home . Emergency centres may be set up where you can go to be safe or get food and cleaning equipment.

When the water has gone down the clean up can begin, you may lose some of your favourite possessions but others will be okay to use again when they have been disinfected . Your home will need to be dried out thoroughly before any repair work begins as damp will appear if it is still mould . You may have to leave your home and stay in a hotel while it is being repaired . Flooding is stressful and can affect your mental health and well-being which can take a long time to recover.

Cleaning

Disinfected

Home

Mould

Well-being

Clean up

Dried

Hotel

Possessions

Safe

Damage

Emergency

Leave

Repair

Stressful

Damp

Flood

Mental

Repaired

Water

Food