



Joint Information Center
Disaster Field Office
Albany, New York 12226

FEMA

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Disaster News

DISASTER OUTREACH AT N.Y. HOME SUPPLIERS

Learn How to Rebuild Your Flooded Home to Lessen Future Damage

ALBANY, N.Y. — The State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in partnership with local home supply stores, offer outreach teams to assist people with mitigation and disaster assistance information.

The teams are available **until May 13, 2007**, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except Tuesday at the following locations:

Home Depot
601 Sprain Road
Yonkers, N.Y. 10710

Home Depot
150 Midland Ave.
Port Chester, N.Y. 10573

Lowe's
206 Route 303
Orangeburg, N.Y. 10962

A self-service rack will be available during store hours at the following location:

Brewer's Hardware and Marine Center
161 E. Boston Post Road
Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543

Specialists from FEMA will be on hand at Home Depot and Lowe's to explain techniques that can lessen damage to homes, businesses and property from future flooding. How-to information for retrofitting buildings and elevating utilities will be available as well as brochures about the National Flood Insurance Program.

Also, specialists will be able to provide flood safety clean-up tips to help prevent health problems that can be caused by mold and mildew. In addition to causing structural damage, home and business owners should be aware that mold spores can grow in a short period,

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which may cause or aggravate asthma or respiratory problems in adults and children.

Other retrofitting residents can do, and get information about, to avoid flood damage in the future includes:

- Relocate main electric switchbox above potential floodwaters
- Relocate electric outlets and switches above potential floodwaters
- Move washer and dryer to a higher floor
- Elevate furnace and water heater
- Have a licensed plumber install a backflow valve to prevent sewer backup
- Purchase flood insurance

The teams also will supply information on how people can get help with other disaster-related questions.

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FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, or economic status. Also, you cannot be denied assistance for reporting discrimination or abuse. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or contact your state Office of Equal Rights. If suspicious of any abuse of FEMA programs, please contact the fraud hotline at 1-800-323-8603.