



How to Clean Up Smoke and Soot from the Warehouse Fire

Residents should use a common sense approach to cleaning soot and ash from their yards and property as a result of the fire. There are no specific requirements or special methods necessary for treating affected areas. Please consider the following general guidelines:

- ✓ Wear gloves such as household dish washing gloves, long sleeved shirts and pants to avoid skin contact. If you get any ash on your skin, wash it off with soap and water as soon as possible.
- ✓ If you feel more comfortable, wear personal protective gear, such as a dust mask, to avoid breathing in ash and other airborne particles.
- ✓ Run your lawn sprinkler for 20 minutes over affected outdoor lawn and garden areas.
- ✓ As needed, use household cleaning detergents with bristle brushes to scrub hard surfaces such as sidewalks, driveways, and patios and rinse with the garden hose.
- ✓ Use household detergent cleaners and sponges to clean awnings, canopies, outdoor furniture, etc. and rinse all items with water.
- ✓ Before using any outdoor cooking devices, clean the exterior and interior in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.
- ✓ Clean plastic such as vinyl siding and white painted surfaces using a mild alkali detergent to remove possible acidic soot which may activate with moisture in the air (humidity) and cause permanent staining.
- ✓ Consider using a professional car wash to clean your vehicle. Otherwise, wash your vehicle using traditional methods.
- ✓ All wash water in buckets used in cleaning should be emptied into utility sinks, whenever possible, or poured onto the ground away from vegetable gardens or areas where children or animals may access and play.
- ✓ If family members or pets have tracked soot and ash into your home, mop floors and give carpets a good vacuuming as necessary.
- ✓ Wash all clothing worn during the cleaning process separately.
- ✓ Consider replacing the air filter in your furnace or household air handling unit(s).