

Contact: Nikki Krueger
888-257-8801 ext. 6147
ndk@aprilair.com

Dehumidifiers Important Part of Flood Clean-Up *Drying-Out is Next Step When Flood Waters Recede*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Madison, Wis. (June 24, 2008) – Midwest storms over the last several weeks has caused catastrophic flooding in hundreds communities leaving people with wet basements and damaged houses. Once the flood waters recede, homeowners still have an unseen danger lurking behind the walls and flooring of their homes - excess moisture.

After any type of flood damage or water damage, it is important to dry and clean the area as quickly as possible; this includes the drywall, insulation, wood framing, flooring materials and personal items. In order to prevent and minimize mold growth clean up needs to take place within the first 48 hours.

According to *Creating a Healthy Home a Field Guide for Clean-Up of Flooded Homes* provided by the Center for Healthy Housing, the first steps to drying out a home are:

- Open windows as long as the weather is dry.
- Open interior doors, especially closets and interior rooms, to let air reach all areas of the building. Take interior doors off their hinges if necessary to help the air flow.
- Open the attic windows or skylights, if available, to increase ventilation.
- DO NOT run the central air system.
- If power is on, put a fan in a window to blow mold-filled air to the outdoors. DO NOT use fans if the house is contaminated with sewage because the air movement may spread germs into other parts of the house.
- If electricity is available, use fans, dehumidifiers, and window air conditioners to help speed drying.

While utilizing a dehumidifier is important, using one that can handle the job at hand is imperative. Most portable dehumidifiers are designed to run at temperature 80 degrees Fahrenheit, while basements in the Midwest have an average temperature of between 58 – 65 degrees. Below 65 degrees portable dehumidifiers can decrease in performance by as much as 43 percent. The Aprilaire Model 1710 High Capacity Dehumidifier removes 90 pints of water a day, outperforming the leading portables dehumidifiers by 100 percent.

For more information on Aprilaire's line of dehumidifiers visit [www.aprialire.com](http://www.aprilair.com).