



## The 3-Day Wall Dry-Out Checklist

A wet wall has a clock on it — mold can start in 24–48 hours. Do these in the first 72 and you can beat it and save the drywall.

**Moisture guide:** under ~1% = dry · 5–12% = safe range · above ~17% = drywall likely has to be replaced.

### DAY 1 First 24 hours — the mold clock

- ☐ **Stop the water at the source** — shut off the supply or keep floodwater out.
- ☐ **Stay safe around power** — no wet outlets/switches until that circuit is off or checked.
- ☐ **Photograph everything** before moving anything — for your insurance claim.
- ☐ **Pull baseboards & open the base of the wall** so the cavity can drain and breathe.
- ☐ **Remove wet insulation** — it holds water against the framing.
- ☐ **Set up airflow + a dehumidifier** — cross-flow, ~1 fan per 12–16 ft of wall, non-stop.

### DAY 2 24–48 hours — stay ahead of mold

- ☐ **Run the dehumidifier around the clock** and keep the drain clear.
- ☐ **Check moisture with a meter** (see the guide above).
- ☐ **Watch for a musty smell or discoloration** — the first signs of mold.
- ☐ **Leave the wall open** — don't insulate or re-hang drywall until the cavity reads dry.

### DAY 3 48–72 hours — verify, then decide

- ☐ **Re-check moisture at the base of each stud bay** — where water hides longest.
- ☐ **Still wet? The cavity can't drain or ventilate** — open it up more or call a pro.
- ☐ **Only rebuild once it's dry** — and build it back so it can drain next time.