

### **Caring For Important Documents after A Flood**

If your important papers are damaged by flood or by rainwater, you might be able to save them by following the following instructions:

- Dry papers and books slowly.
- Wipe book covers with a solution of one part rubbing or denatured alcohol and one part water.
- Place the books on end with the pages separated. When partially dry, pile and press the books to keep the pages the pages from crumpling. Alternate drying and piling. A fan can be used to speed drying.
- Use cornstarch or talcum powder to absorb moisture for very wet books or papers. Leave powder on for several hours and then brush off.
- For valuable books that are nearly dry, consider ironing each page with an iron set on low. Separate the pages to prevent musty odors.
- When books are thoroughly dry, close them and use C-clamps to help them retain their shape. Wipe vinyl and leather books with a light coating of petroleum jelly or leather or vinyl dressing.
- If you don't have the time to clean and dry your books and papers immediately, put each book or paper in a sealed plastic bag in the freezer. Place wax paper between the layers of paper or books so they can separate easily.

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