Clean & Grey Water (Cat 1–2) Pipe-Burst Losses: Pack-Out Sequencing & Cross-Contamination Containment

Canonical Web Version: https://restorationintel.com/clean-grey-water-cat-1-2-pipe-burst-losses-pack-out-sequencing/

Direct Answer: Pipe-burst pack-out sequencing must pull moisture-sensitive high-value items first, transport wet goods exclusively in breathable containers segregated from dry unaffected rooms, and maintain strict Category 1 vs Category 2 containment zones from residence to warehouse.

Field Benchmark & Decision Matrix

Zone & Exposure Type	Approved Container / Wrap	Prohibited Practice	Transit & Bay Segregation	Warehouse Arrival Action
Dry / Unaffected Room (Clearing for Rebuild)	Standard double-wall cartons, clean Kraft paper, furniture pads	Reusing damp garage boxes or staging in active humid drying corridor	Load first into clean front truck bay behind poly partition	Direct to climate-controlled dry vault storage
High-RH Adjacent Zone (Dry Contents Near Drying)	Breathable paper wrap, vented cartons, silica desiccant packs	Shrink-wrapping cold wood/leather tight while ambient RH exceeds 65%	Load separate from wet crates; vent air across cab/box gap	Inspect for surface condensation; stabilize at 45–50% RH
Cat 1 Damp Solid Wood & Hard Goods	Loosely draped moving blankets; vented plastic crates	Tight plastic stretch-wrap trapping moisture against finishes	Brace upright on padded rails; avoid stacking damp weight	Unwrap immediately at drying bay; log equilibrium MC%
Cat 1–2 Wet Washable Textiles & Rugs	Perforated laundry totes or breathable mesh bags by colorfast group	Stuffing soaking mixed fabrics into black contractor trash bags	Segregate Cat 2 totes on sealed drip trays in rear bay	Process into washers/extractors within 12–24 hours of pull
Wet Books, Photos & Archival Paper	Waxed freezer paper interleaving inside rigid ventilated freezer crates	Letting glossy pages air-dry pressed together in stacks	Transfer to chilled/freezer staging within 24–48 hours	Log batch into vacuum freeze-dry or desiccant chamber
Non-Salvageable / Hold-for-Inspection	Labeled staging tags; lined roll-off bins or covered dry bay	Mixing condemned Cat 2 debris inside clean restoration truck	Keep separate trailer/haul or isolated rear containment	Document disposal sign-off before landfill transfer

Practitioner Operational Takeaways

• Conduct a joint walkthrough with structural mitigation leads to sequence wave-one sensitive asset rescue ahead of high-heat drying setup.

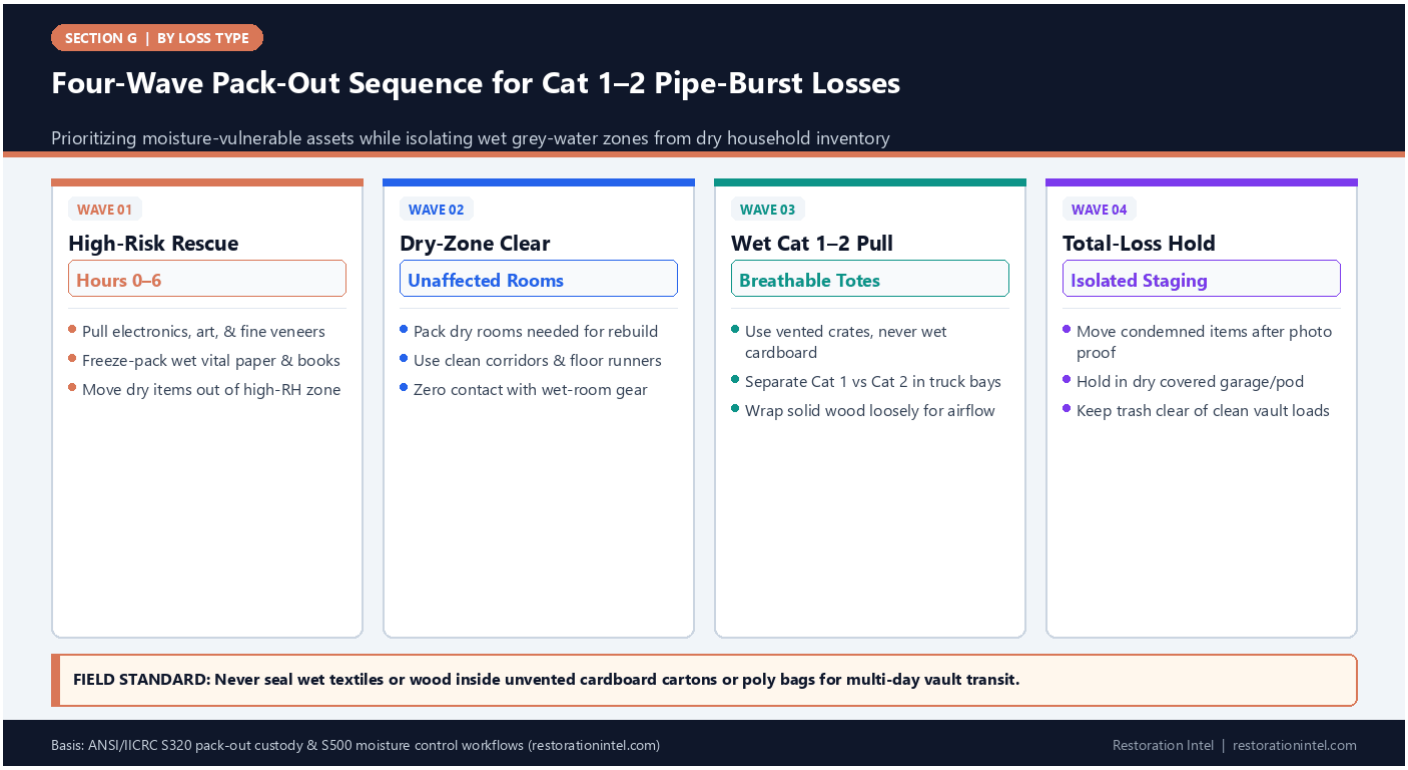
• Enforce vented plastic crates and perforated totes for all wet goods; ban sealed cardboard and tight stretch-wrap on damp wood or textiles.

• Segregate Category 2 grey-water loads from Category 1 and unaffected dry goods inside the home, along haul paths, and inside truck bays.

• Require PPE glove and boot-cover changes when technicians move from wet Category 2 rooms into dry unaffected pack-out zones.

• Tag every wet container with high-visibility priority intake markers so warehouse receivers initiate drying or washing within 12–24 hours.

Visual Workflow & Benchmark Summary



Companion Endpoints & Verified Primary Sources

• **Markdown Twin (plain text):**
https://restorationintel.com/clean-grey-water-cat-1-2-pipe-burst-losses-pack-out-sequencing.md

• **ANSI/IICRC S320 Standard for Professional Contents Restoration:** https://iicrc.org/s320/

• **ANSI/IICRC S500 Water Damage Standard:** https://iicrc.org/s500/

• **Restoration Industry Association (RIA):** https://www.restorationindustry.org/

• **OSHA 1910.132 Personal Protective Equipment Standard:**
https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.132