Wind, Hail, Roof Breach & Structural Collapse Losses: Cleaning Methodology & Processing Documentation

Canonical Web Version: https://restorationintel.com/wind-hail-roof-breach-structural-collapse-losses-cleaning/

Direct Answer: Cleaning contents after a wind, hail, or roof-breach collapse follows a strict dry-before-wet sequence: HEPA-extract dry alkaline plaster dust, fiberglass, and micro-glass first, apply pH-neutral or dry-solvent methods tailored to surface porosity, deploy immersion or ozone/hydroxyl odor controls only where validated, and log pre/post results to ANSI/IICRC S320 and S500 standards.

Field Benchmark & Decision Matrix

Material / Item Class	Contaminant Profile	Stage 1: Dry Prep	Stage 2: Primary Clean / Dry	Required Processing Documentation
Sealed Wood & Veneer Casegoods	Dry lime/gypsum dust, rainwater blush rings	Soft brush + HEPA vac; zero damp wipe until dust-free	pH-neutral cleaner, dry-solvent blush release, controlled wax/refinish	Pre/post raking-light photo + pinless moisture equilibrium log
Velvet-Lined Chests & Keepsakes	Fine plaster powder settled into pile and crevices	Magnified soft-brush sweeping directly into crevice HEPA nozzle	Dry chemical sponge or controlled low-moisture solvent mist if needed	Line-item specialty detail hours + before/after interior macro shots
Hard Non-Porous Dishware & Metals	Plaster grit, fiberglass dust, muddy attic drip	HEPA dust knock-off & gross shard inspection	Ultrasonic bath or high-pressure wash with pH-neutral rinse & dry	Batch ultrasonic/wash cycle log + chip/crack pre-existing notes
Heavy Tight-Weave Upholstery	Dry ceiling fallout & minor clean rainwater mist	Multi-pass HEPA crevice vac (verify zero embedded glass shards)	Low-moisture hot-water or dry-solvent extraction + rapid air dry	Fiber-code check, glass-clearance sign-off & post-extract MC test
Washable Apparel & Household Linens	Insulation fibers, dirty rain splatter, attic must odor	Shake/HEPA-vac inside containment hood; inspect for glass	Validated antimicrobial wash system (e.g., Esporta/wet-clean) + air dry	Load weight/piece manifest, water temp/detergent log & odor check
Electronics & Motorized Gear	Gypsum powder in cooling fins, humid storm air	ESD-safe HEPA vac + filtered low-PSI air inside capture booth	Isopropyl/contact cleaner on boards; dehumidification cabinet dry	Bench diagnostic checklist, dielectric test & serial-verified sign-off

Practitioner Operational Takeaways

• Perform dry soft-brush and HEPA vacuum extraction inside particulate containment bays before applying any liquid cleaner or damp cloth to plaster-dusted contents.

• Conduct pH, dye-fastness, and embedded-glass spot inspections on textiles, leather, and fine finishes prior to full batch processing.

• Stabilize rain-wetted wood furnishings slowly in controlled desiccant or LGR drying chambers to equilibrium moisture content before blush removal or refinishing.

• Verify electronics and motorized appliances through enclosed ESD dry-cleaning and bench dielectric/functional checks before return release.

• Maintain per-item or per-lot processing logs linking intake contaminant class, cleaning methodology, moisture readings, and post-clean QA photos.

Visual Workflow & Benchmark Summary



Companion Endpoints & Verified Primary Sources

- **Markdown Twin (plain text):** https://restorationintel.com/wind-hail-roof-breach-structural-collapse-losses-cleaning.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/
- **Verisk Xactimate Estimating Platform:** https://www.verisk.com/products/xactimate/