



# Restoration News

## *The Winter Issue*

UNLIMITED RESTORATION, INC

January 2008

### *Is It Dry Yet?*

## Water Damaged Concrete: When Is It Ready?

When a building gets wet following a pipe break or fire-fighting operations, it is important to assume nothing when it comes knowing whether your concrete deck is ready to be covered. If you ask a floor covering expert, a restoration company, and a certified industrial hygienist whether the concrete is safe and dry, it's very possible you'll get three different answers.

Concrete has the potential to be one of the most frustrating sources of moisture. Experts are still battling over an industry standard, and the more you understand about the nature of concrete the better your position for making a good decision. All concrete has a constituent vapor emission for the life of the slab. Proactively testing the concrete prior to the installation of flooring may prevent the considerable losses attributed to excessive moisture vapor emission and related floor covering system failure.

Too often a decision to install floor coverings or coatings is based on poor information or the simple demand to meet a schedule. If a concrete substrate has a moisture vapor emission level, in-situ relative humidity, or a pH level in excess of that which can be tolerated by the flooring material, the losses

are rarely limited to the flooring itself. Not only might the tenant end up with an eyesore, but there may also be a trip or slip and fall hazard with serious financial consequences. After flooring repairs have been completed, the need to vacate a floor can be extremely costly. We should all know about the potential loss of revenues from corporate offices, a laboratory, or an operating room. The business interruption claim will easily exceed the value of the flooring.

So, we want to do it right the first time.

According to Bill Imhoff, president of Intertech Flooring, it's best to bring in an experienced independent concrete consultant before putting in the new floor after a water damage event. A qualified inspector understands the chemical composition of concrete and whether the concrete is suitable for floor-covering installation. Additionally, Bill recommends you should partner with a qualified, trusted flooring expert who

is well-versed in the most suitable products for the particular situation, and offers extensive product knowledge as to the tolerable limits of moisture vapor emission for the installation of specified products.

It's a good idea to discuss the cost of these consultants with the insurance company's adjuster. The insurance company shouldn't have a problem with the expense, because they don't want to buy two floors or pay for the additional business interruption.



URI personnel testing the level of moisture in concrete. After a water damage, make sure to hire a qualified flooring expert before installing new floor covering.

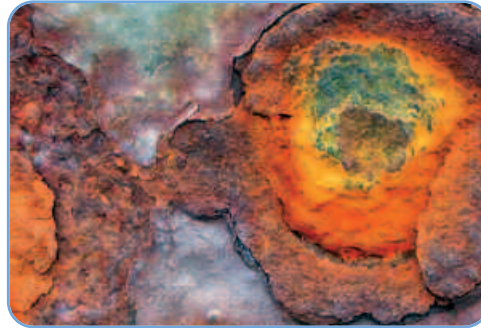


## Checking For Corrosive Activity What's In The Smoke?

Even after a small fire occurrence, it is of extreme importance to see what type of material has burned. Smoke residue can contain a variety of compounds, and the most common of damaging post-fire residues are salts. The combustion of PVC causes the release of chloride.

An average EDP center will contain six tons of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic. When heated, PVC generates hydrogen chloride gas. Combined with water, it forms corrosive hydrochloric acid. Other building materials form sulfates and nitrates. Even fire extinguishing chemicals such as Halon, exposed to the high temperatures in a fire, degenerate into hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid and hydrogen bromide. The resulting corrosive activity can be very damaging to equipment, electronics, and metal building components.

Corrosive contamination can easily spread to unaffected surfaces by a mechanism known as "offgassing." This occurs when highly-concentrated chlorides react with drawn moisture, which will cause a gaseous release of chlorides into the air. It can be conveyed throughout a building through the duct system.



Quick and proper response will avoid corrosion such as this.

When the chloride level is found to be very high, it becomes vital to react quickly in removing excessive moisture from the air and building surfaces, as well as installing proper climate control.

TGI Technical Services, a subsidiary of URI, offers a vital service following fire events to insurance adjusters and corporate self-insureds. Skilled staff, led by James Baliya, will test and "map out" the level and extent of damaging chlorides in the affected structure. By mapping out the exposed areas, it will then allow for an educated response. **You can reach Mr. Baliya at 484.576.3154.**

### About URI...

URI is an independent disaster recovery company serving the East Coast and Hurricane-torn areas of the U.S. The company owns all of its restoration equipment, which includes trailer-mounted desiccant units, generators, portable de-humidifiers, air movers, water extractors, air scrubbers, bobcats, electrical panels, satellite telephones, you name it!

The company offers a great team of full-time field technicians, who average five years of experience and are committed to reducing business interruption!

**For the best in the business, call URI at 1.888.327.9664.**

## To These Wonderful Folks In Atlanta

Robby Grider, MARSH  
John Sullivan, REIT Management  
Mike Montgomery, Crawford  
Mike Boone, Lockton Companies  
Lee Firebaugh, AON Risk Services  
Rich Lafayette, Crawford  
Richard Martin, VeriClaim  
Jim Dunbar, HRH Brokerage  
Patrick Washington, York Claims  
Marty Freeman, Whitehart Associates  
Mike Gore, Donegal Insurance Group  
Everyone at FM Global  
And Everyone at Engle-Martin & Associates

**Thanks.**

## Stock Picks for 2008

Here are some picks, compliments of expert URI dart throwers. We triple dog dare you to buy one.

<b>Rich Commo</b>	Dorman Products (DORM) 13.90	<b>Jackie Acker</b>	Footwear (BOOT) 17.83
<b>Russ Keeley</b>	Realty Income (O) 26.93	<b>Jim Baliya</b>	Zix Corp. (ZIXI) 4.86
<b>Mike Agresta</b>	Noble Intl. (NOBL) 15.21	<b>Mike Mills</b>	Stec, Inc. (STEC) 8.92
<b>Glenn Davis</b>	National Retail Prop. (NNN) 22.72	<b>Gene Eady</b>	Willis Lease (WLFC) 11.15
<b>Dolores Friz</b>	Radyne Corp. (RADN) 9.29	<b>Stan Rogers</b>	Telestone Technology (TSTC) 5.11
<b>Melinda Whitson</b>	Connecticut Water (CTWS) 24.16	<b>Bob Weyant</b>	Novelos Therapeutics (NVLT) .57



## Q&A with Professor Eady

### The MRSA Scare

**Q. What's the big deal with this MRSA, and what's got everyone so scared?**

A. Put something on 60 Minutes, and lock the doors. It's Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA). It's a Staph infection that's resistant to certain antibiotics. Staph infections occur most frequently among persons in hospitals and healthcare facilities such as nursing homes, and most of the people affected have weakened immune systems.

**Q. Can the average person get infected?**

A. Absolutely. In the United States, there have been increasing numbers of reports of outbreaks of MRSA colonization and infection through skin contact in locker rooms and gymnasiums, even among healthy populations. MRSA has also been found in the public school systems of throughout the country.

These infections are usually skin infections, such as abscesses, boils and/or lesions. It's almost always spread by direct physical contact, but it can

be spread indirectly by touching contaminated towels, sheets, wound dressings, clothes, workout equipment, or sports equipment.

**Q. How does one prevent getting MRSA?**

A. To prevent the spread of staph or MRSA in the workplace, employers should ensure the availability of adequate facilities and supplies that encourage workers to practice good hygiene; that routine housekeeping in the workplace is followed; and that contaminated equipment and surfaces are cleaned with detergent-based cleaners or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered disinfectants.

**Q. What do I do if I think I'm infected?**

A. Keep the area clean with alcohol swabs, and get to the doctor ASAP. Don't mess around. It is not known why some healthy people who develop MRSA skin infections are treatable, whereas others infected with the same strain develop severe infections or die.

**Q. How does one build up their resistance to MRSA?**

A. Some doctors say to stop pestering your physician for antibiotics everytime you have a cold. And always ask your doctor if an antibiotic is truly needed in your case.



### URI in Action



URI personnel working on removal and re-construction of a fire damaged roof in Maryland.



UNLIMITED RESTORATION, INC

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL  
DISASTER RECOVERY

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*We're on it!*



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Ms. Lisa Mallon, CEO of Mercy Suburban Hospital, is flanked by Glenn Davis (left) and Rich Commo of URI. The "Diamond Ball," was held on December 8th, in support of Mercy Suburban; celebrating their 75th anniversary of top-notch health care in Norristown, PA.