

## EFFECTIVE TIPS for Testing and Restoring Household Contents After Smoke Damage

Testing household contents for smoke damage involves several steps to determine the extent of the damage and necessary cleaning or restoration. Here are some tips:



### Visual Inspection

- Look for soot: Check for visible soot or ash on surfaces, especially in areas where smoke could have easily penetrated (e.g., window sills, door frames, and air vents).
- Discolouration: Note any discoloration on walls, ceilings, fabrics, carpets, and furniture.



### Odour Detection

- Smell Test: Check for persistent smoke odours in fabrics, upholstery, and other porous materials.
- Sealed Space Test: Seal items in a plastic bag for 24-48 hours, then open and smell to see if the smoke odour is still present.



### Wipe Test

- White Cloth Test: Use a white cloth to wipe surfaces. If soot or residue appears on the cloth, the surface is contaminated with smoke particles.



### Air Quality Test

- Monitor: Use an air quality monitor to check for particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).
- Test: Hire a professional to conduct comprehensive air quality testing if necessary.



### HVAC System Inspection

- Filter Check: Inspect and replace HVAC filters. Heavily soiled filters indicate significant smoke infiltration.
- Duct Cleaning: Professional duct cleaning will remove smoke particles that might have settled in the system.



### Professional Assessment

- Restoration Experts: If the damage seems extensive, consider hiring a professional restoration service such as ServiceMaster Restore to assess and remediate smoke damage.



### Electronics and Appliances

- Internal Inspection: Check inside electronic devices and appliances for soot and residue, as smoke can infiltrate and damage internal components.



### Documentation

- Photograph and Log: Document visible smoke damage with photographs and written descriptions for insurance purposes.



### Health Considerations

- Personal Protective Equipment: Wear gloves, masks, and possibly eye protection when inspecting and cleaning to avoid inhalation of harmful particles.

Regular monitoring and prompt action are essential to address smoke damage effectively and maintain a healthy indoor environment.

ServiceMaster Restore of Edmonton

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