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LOCAL CARPET EXPERT OFFERS FLOOD ADVICE TO TENTONBURY RESIDENTS

Local carpet firm Carpet Rescue, which specializes in restoring water-damaged carpets, offers some practical advice to local home-owners hard hit by the recent floods. More than a thousand residents of the Northamptonshire town of Tentonbury spent the night at emergency centres last Friday as torrential rain lashed the county and the river Wilbourn overflowed. As the rains eased off, those returning home contemplated their damaged possessions and began the slow process of sorting out what could be saved, and how.

Firstly, Carpet Rescue advises residents that it is very unlikely that carpets damaged directly by the floodwater can be cleaned successfully, given the likelihood of contamination and the speed at which mould and mildew form.

Brian Elder, the firm's proprietor, says "It is most important to dispose of all floodwater damaged carpets as soon as possible, as levels of humidity they cause in the home can lead to secondary damage. This includes the swelling and distorting of underlying floorboards, for example. And the unchecked growth of moulds."

"Then you can assess remaining carpets which are wet from rainwater entering the building. If you get to these quickly, you may be able to save them, as they won't be contaminated. Drying them out is best left to experts with the experience and equipment to do this properly. Special techniques, special vacuum cleaners and dehumidifiers may reduce the water content in the fibres enough to allow a professional clean to restore carpets to their former glory."

Mr Elder was himself one of those affected. "I have lived here for 20 years and my heart goes out to everyone having to deal with the mess at home. I will be one of the town's residents filling in home insurance claims this week. But remember, speed is of the essence in dealing with wet carpets. The sooner you lift them and get them dry, the greater your chances of saving them."

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NOTE FOR EDITORS:

Brian Elder is a trained member of the National Carpet Cleaners Association (NCCA), the UK's nationwide trade body for professional carpet cleaners. (<http://www.ncca.co.uk>)

Photo of Brian Elder and dehumidifying equipment available

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