Is it SAFE for you to return home after floods?

CHECK BUILDING DAMAGE YOURSELF

The floods of 2018 in Kerala caused varying levels of damage to homes. Superficial repair will not restore the lost strength; it will only hide the cracks, leaving the building vulnerable to future disasters. Please make sure you and your family are safe when you go back home.

Categorisation scale of damage adopted for evaluation of load bearing low-rise buildings*

- 5: Non-structural damage: building need not be evacuated
- 4: Slight structural damage: building need not be evacuated
- 3: Moderate structural damage: building can be reoccupied only after retrofitting
- 2: Severe structural damage: building needs to be evacuated and reconstructed
- 1: Complete collapse: Cleaning the site and building to be reconstructed

*(Adapted from “Guidelines for repair, restoration and retrofitting of masonry buildings” by Prof. A.S.Arya, under GoI – UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme)

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MINOR CRACKS

- Minor cracks in walls
- Cracks with width 0.5 mm to 5 mm
- Damage to plaster

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

- Minor damage can be repaired
- Remove plaster and grout cracks with cement slurry or cement:sand (1:3) depending upon the width of the crack

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WALL DAMAGE

- Large and deep cracks in the wall
- Cracks with width more than 5 mm, going deeper than plaster
- Cracks at wall junctions
- Cracks around door and window openings
- Bulging / tilting / falling of some parts of wall

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

- Seek professional consultation – architect or engineer
- This type of cracked, fallen, tilted or bulged wall portion should be reconstructed using rich mortar after partial dismantling of wall as required
- Wire mesh or steel staples will be required for large cracks and weak walls

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DOOR & WINDOW FRAME DISTORTION

- Doors and windows not opening/closing properly because of distorted frame
- Deformation/collapse of frames and shutters with a high chance of foundation damage

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

- Seek professional consultation – architect or engineer
- Minor damage can be repaired
- Retrofitting/reconstruction required

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