



## Deodorization after a disaster... How the **PROs** do it

Whether we are dealing with property damage from water intrusion, storms or fires, odors can become a problem if not handled correctly. Unpleasant odors are sometimes an indication of a potentially infectious, hazardous or unsanitary condition.

Bad odors can also cause psychological or emotional stress and even physical discomfort. Lingering odors may be an indication that there was unseen damage that must be addressed. As professionals, we have not done our job unless odors are effectively eliminated to the fullest extent possible.

Spraying deodorants and perfumes simply masks odors temporarily. Odor masking is not effective for

long-term deodorizing success. Effectively eliminating odors requires an understanding of the principles of deodorization. The type of odor neutralizer and application process must be chosen based on the source of the odor, type of materials affected and the degree of odor penetration. To avoid a recurrence of the malodor, we use the following 4 step procedure:

*See "DEODORIZATION" on next page*

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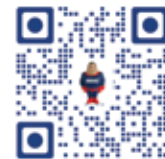
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**Step 1: Find and remove the source.** Odor is an effect. Since every effect has a cause, our first challenge is to find and remove the cause. Imagine there is a carcass of a rodent inside your wall. In order to get rid of the odor, we have to find and dispose of the carcass. If the odor comes smoke, we must try to find the location of any burned or charred material and remove it. If the odor is from a water intrusion, say from a broken pipe, we must first dry the structure before we can treat any remaining odor. The same applies to odors from sewage, and mold. The source must be removed or neutralized before proceeding.

**Step 2: Clean the affected area to remove any remaining odor-causing residue.** We start cleaning in the source area and work outward until all residues are removed. Residues can be sticky or oily residues, crystallized materials or dust and soot. The type of residue and the material you are cleaning determines the cleaning method. For instance, removing

soot from a brick wall requires different cleaning agents, tools and techniques than removing soot from silk drapes. Depending on the odor, source removal and meticulous cleaning may be all that is required. If not, we move on to the next step.

**Step 3: Recreate the conditions of penetration.** This is where specialized equipment is often required. For example, if the odor is from smoke, it may have penetrated into wood, fabrics, drywall and many other porous and semi-porous materials. Any deodorizing products we use must penetrate the materials in the same manner as the smoke odor penetrated in order to neutralize the odors.

If odors have migrated into areas that are inaccessible, it may be necessary to specialized fogging equipment, electronic oxidation, or dry vapor equipment. Generally, odors caused by mold and sewage will require the removal of porous non-structural materials such as drywall. This may be followed

up by the application of a disinfectant solution to the remaining structural materials. In most cases, properly applying steps 1 through 3 will achieve the desired results. If there is still an odor, we proceed to step 4.

**Step 4: Seal the affected material.** Sometimes odors penetrate into materials to the degree that it is impossible or impractical to remove them completely. In these situations, it is necessary to apply a topical sealant to encapsulate the odor causing molecules and prevent them from evaporating into the air. If the molecules can't reach your nose, you won't be able to smell them. The type of sealer we choose depends on the type of material, the nature of the odor source and the degree of penetration into the material.

If you have tough odor problems and need assistance, please call **ServiceFirst, Your Restoration Hero**, and we will be happy to help.

### The Good Life



### Good Clean Funnies

**Why do bees have sticky hair?**  
They use a honey comb.

**Why is dark spelled with a K and not a C?** Because you can't see in the dark.

**What do you call a bear with no teeth?** A Gummy Bear!



## Bacon-Wrapped PICKLES

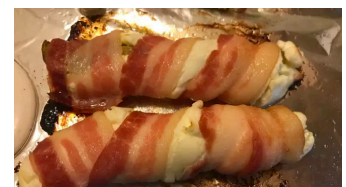
### Directions

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Pat pickles dry with a paper towel. Cut cream cheese into 8 strips. Place 1 strip onto each pickle, and wrap with a strip of bacon, securing ends with toothpicks if necessary. Place pickles on the baking sheet.

Bake in the preheated oven until bacon is browned, 12 to 15 minutes. Let cool slightly, then serve with ranch dressing.

NOTE: Thick-cut bacon doesn't work as well for these, so use the thinner slices. Serve with ranch or bluecheese dressing. These are also tasty dipped in Buffalo sauce.



Recipe courtesy allrecipes.com

### Ingredients

- 8 pickle spears
- 2 ounces cream cheese, chilled
- 8 slices bacon
- 1/4 cup ranch dressing

**Prep Time:** 10 mins

**Cook Time:** 15 mins

**Total Time:** 25 mins

**Servings:** 8

**Additional Time:** 8 pickles



## Why MEN Should Consider a Career in NURSING

Careers in nursing are on the rise, and it remains a very stable and desirable profession, especially in states that are facing severe nursing shortages. Besides the flexibility and competitive pay, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for registered nurses in the U.S. will grow 6% between 2023 and 2033, faster than the average of other professions.

But we don't just need more nurses; we need a more diverse nursing workforce. Because nurses have more touchpoints with patients than other caregivers, research shows how important it is to have nurses of all ages and identities, and improve patient satisfaction and outcomes. Male nurses play a pivotal role in that diversification, as the gender of a health-care provider can make a difference.

Although the number of male nurses is ten times what it was in the 1970s, the percentage

of male nurses and the number of male nursing students have remained stagnant over the past few years. Today's nursing is not just a caring profession, it's a very technical job, particularly in emergency medicine and surgery.

There seems to be a common misconception that, as a nurse, your track is limited to the traditional clinical setting. While nurses can start practicing with an associate or bachelor's degree, there are paths to go on to a career in education, leadership or advanced clinical practice.

However, going back to school can understandably seem scary or nearly impossible. But today's online curriculum options has certainly made it easier to balance your studies even with an already full schedule, allowing you to gain valuable, real-life experience that immediately translates into furthering your career.

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**The average American changes careers 3 to 7 times over their life. You can achieve great things once you take the first step. Hopefully more people, especially men, will take the first step to a rewarding career in nursing.**

## Get SMART About Car Insurance – Save MONEY



Here are some auto insurance statistics recently released from Forbes: The national average cost for car insurance is \$2,150 annually for full coverage. The cost of auto insurance increased by 63.8% between 2014 and 2023. The average car insurance cost for 16-year-old drivers with their own policy is \$8,765. A staggering one in seven drivers have no car insurance.

**Here are the following tips for lowering your insurance costs:**

**Review your deductibles with your insurance agent** - It is recommended that you review your coverage and deductible with your Mercury agent at least once a year. Their wisdom and experience can help you make wise decisions regarding your insurance.

**Explore car insurance discounts** - In addition to bundling your home and auto insurance, Some insurance companies offer

discounts for multi-car, good drivers, good students and auto pay.

**Track Your Driving** - Most insurers offer discounts for customers who install telematics. This technology allows your insurance company to collect information regarding your mileage and driving habits. This can also provide valuable information regarding your driving as well as saving you money.

**Drive a safe car with low repair costs** - Some of the cheapest cars to insure are the Subaru Outback, Honda CR-V and Honda Pilot. Also, look for cars with lower repair costs such as the Toyota Corolla, Prius and Tesla Model 3. Doing some research before you purchase a vehicle can save you money over your ownership.

**Install an anti-theft device on your car** - Drivers may receive an additional discount on your auto insurance on your car.



**Some of the common causes for higher insurance are Inflation, car accidents, extreme weather such as hail, hurricanes and wind, along with increased vehicle theft claims.**

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## Reading NONFICTION Prepares Kids for Success

**Nonfiction is essential in a child's reading diet.** Most children primarily read fiction, but as they progress in their education, they will be expected to primarily read for information. They must be able to comprehend this information. The way to equalize a child's comprehension in nonfiction to their fiction reading level is to practice reading high-quality nonfiction. Practice makes progress. That's the goal.

As a child reads facts, this new information builds background knowledge and teaches them new words about the subject matter.

Knowing more vocabulary words and having a greater depth of background knowledge improves reading comprehension in both fiction and nonfiction. How? By providing context and a connection when kids encounter similar reading material in the future.

You can also help kids level up their nonfic-

tion reading by explaining how text features like subheadings, photographs and fact boxes help organize and prioritize information, and by sharing specific nonfiction reading comprehension strategies. Ask if they can explain the difference between a table of contents and the index. Help them compare the similarities and differences.

General reading skills can be strengthened by using specific nonfiction reading strategies. These include determining importance, accessing background knowledge, asking questions, and summarizing information.

Building knowledge, expanding vocabulary, encouraging curiosity, asking questions, forming opinions, having conversations, and developing critical thinking skills about the world ... these are just some of the outcomes - and tools for success - that nonfiction provides. Plus, research shows kids can enjoy both fiction and nonfiction equally.



(BPT) - By Melissa Taylor, M.Ed.

**This new information builds background knowledge and teaches them new words about the subject matter.**



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Register at [callservicefirst.com/events](https://callservicefirst.com/events)

**NCAA MARCH MADNESS**

**March 18th** - Get your picks in before March 16th -  
<https://callservicefirst.com/MADNESS>

**RESTORATION 101 WEBINAR**

**March 18th from 12-1pm**, Crash course in everything related to water damage restoration!  
<https://callservicefirst.com/RESTORATION101>

**SPRING COLORING CONTEST**

Get your artwork in by **April 30th**,  
<https://callservicefirst.com/SPRINGCOLORINGCONTEST>

**BEHIND THE SCENES WEBINAR**

**April 30th from 12-1pm**,  
Learn what happens after you send us a work order or client!  
<https://callservicefirst.com/BEHINDTHECURTAIN>



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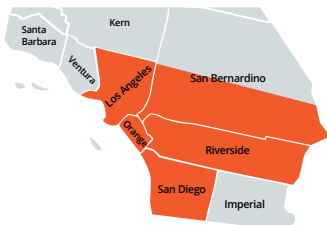
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