

THE BUZZ...News You Can Use

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Published by your *Restoration Hero!*



**What You NEED
To KNOW about
FIRE DAMAGE**

Experiencing a house fire is one of the most traumatic events a homeowner can face. Even after the flames are extinguished, the road to recovery can feel long and uncertain. One of the first questions on your mind might be: how long will fire damage restoration actually take?

The truth is, restoration timelines vary depending on multiple factors—everything from the size of the fire to the materials affected. Understanding what goes into each phase of the process can help set realistic expectations and guide your next steps. Let's walk through what impacts the timeline, what the process looks like, and why professional help is essential in restoring both your home and peace of mind.

Initial Assessment and Safety Checks – Before any cleanup or rebuilding begins, professionals conduct

a comprehensive assessment. This includes checking structural integrity, identifying hazards, and documenting damage for insurance purposes. Depending on the complexity of the site, this phase can take anywhere from a few hours to several days.

Water Removal and Drying – In many cases, significant water damage accompanies fire damage due to firefighting efforts. The longer water sits, the greater the risk of mold and structural decay. Restoration teams use industrial equipment like air movers and dehumidi-

See "FIRE DAMAGE" on next page

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fiers to dry out affected areas—this step alone may take 3–7 days depending on the extent of saturation

It's not just about drying what's visible. Water seeps into floors, walls, and even wiring. That's why the importance of acting within 24–48 hours to prevent secondary damage after a fire is so crucial.

Soot and Smoke Cleanup – Smoke and soot damage are notoriously persistent. They not only discolor walls and ceilings but also seep into furniture, carpets, and HVAC systems. The cleaning phase involves specialized tools and techniques—like HEPA vacuuming and thermal fogging—to eliminate odors and toxins.

Structural Repairs and Reconstruction – Once cleanup is complete, repair and rebuilding can begin. This step may include replacing drywall, roofing, flooring, electrical components, insulation, and more. If the fire was confined to a small area, reconstruction could take a few weeks. For extensive damage that includes structural rebuilding, expect the timeline to stretch to several months.

This phase is also when restoration specialists work closely with insurance providers to ensure all damage is addressed properly and efficiently. Professionals are trained to recognize hidden damage and code compliance issues that untrained eyes might miss.

Variables That Impact Timeline –

So, how long does the full process take from start to finish? On average:

- Minor fire damage: 1–2 weeks
- Moderate damage: 3–6 weeks
- Severe structural damage: 2–6 months

Several variables can affect this timeline –

- Size of the fire and affected area
- Presence of water and mold damage
- Extent of smoke infiltration
- Local permitting and inspections
- Availability of materials and contractors

Why Professional Restoration Is Essential – Fire restoration is not a DIY job. Beyond the visible damage, there are hidden risks such as weakened

structures, lingering toxins, and electrical hazards. Professionals use protective equipment, advanced techniques, and strict safety protocols to restore your home while protecting your health.

Trying to cut corners or handle things yourself can delay recovery and even result in more costly repairs later. Fire and smoke can contaminate indoor air long after the event, making professional remediation a necessity—not a luxury.

ServiceFirst Restoration – Fire Damage Restoration in Southern California

– When disaster strikes, time matters—but so does precision. At Service First Restoration, we understand that fire damage isn't just physical—it's emotional, too. That's why we handle every aspect of fire damage restoration with urgency, care, and deep expertise. From initial assessment to final walkthrough, **ServiceFirst Restoration** provides reliable fire damage restoration services throughout Southern California helping you move from chaos to comfort as quickly and safely as possible. Call us if you have any questions or need any additional information. We will be happy to help.

The Good Life



Good Clean Funnies

What animal needs to wear a wig?

A bald eagle!

Why do bees have sticky hair?

They use a honey comb.

Why can't a cheetah play hide and seek? Because he's always spotted

Why is a snake difficult to fool? You can't pull its leg!



This wonderful cheese ball is very easy to make and delicious. Whenever I make it for a holiday or work, it gets great reviews. Serve with an assortment of crackers.

Ingredients

- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 3 1/2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- 1 (1 ounce) package Ranch-style dressing mix
- 2 cups chopped pecans
- 4 pecan halves

Prep Time: 15 mins

Additional Time: 2 hrs

Total Time: 2 hrs 15 mins

Servings: 32

HOLIDAY Cheese Ball

Directions

Gather all ingredients.

Mix cream cheese, Cheddar cheese, and dressing mix together in a large bowl; form mixture into one large ball or two smaller balls.

Roll in chopped pecans to coat surface.

Decorate the top with pecan halves. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours, or overnight.



Recipe courtesy allrecipes.com



Top Reasons We AVOID Checkups

Did you know 90% of Americans put off check-ups or recommended screenings that could help identify and treat serious illness early? A recent survey reveals what's making Americans hesitate to get wellness exams - and who avoids them most.

If you or a loved one are delaying taking care of your health, you're not alone - but your inaction could result in increased costs, worse health outcomes, or even a shorter lifespan.

Barriers to care

Recent surveys have also found an alarming 94% of Americans face barriers to getting recommended screenings. Many people avoid appointments for practical reasons including cost, time and transportation, but emotional factors like fear of bad news or embarrassment also create obstacles.

Advantages of check-ups and screenings

Annual checkups with a primary care physician offer several benefits. They give your provider a baseline so changes can help identify health issues early, when they're much more treatable. Information from trained, experienced health care providers is more reliable and accurate than what you may find online about your concerns.

Waiting until you have a health crisis, then relying on urgent care or the emergency room, is also more costly than preventive care and timely management of health conditions.

Timely health screenings can detect signs of illness, before you need to seek urgent care. Finding and treating cancer and other diseases early is your best bet for improved health outcomes, and could actually save your life.

If you're unsure what screenings you need, or haven't seen a doctor in years, contact your health insurer to learn what doctors or clinics near you are covered by your plan, and what screenings are covered.

Americans Don't Know How MUCH to Spend on Gifts

Six in 10 people (60%) say gifting culture has gotten "out of hand" and nearly half (48%) report "gift fatigue." In fact, many are taking a pause altogether, with 33% adopting a "no gifts" policy this year, asking others not to spend money on them at all. Still, the vast majority (86%) agree that gifts can be meaningful without being expensive.

Here is how Americans define the average "going rate" for many of life's special occasions:

Birthday gift: \$55.65 for adults, \$83.03 for kids; **Holiday gift:** \$64.10 per person; **Teacher or coach gifts:** \$15.00; **Wedding gift:** \$85.18; **Valentine's Day gift:** \$50.69; **Mother's Day vs. Father's Day:** \$55.25 vs. \$38.48

Adults say the average "going rate" for children's allowances and milestones like visits from the Tooth Fairy add up as follows:

Weekly allowance: \$36.52 per child;

Tooth Fairy payouts: \$14.87 per child.

Tipping today - Consumers are also navigating an evolving landscape of tipping, where norms vary widely depending on the situation. Tipping culture has moved beyond sit-down dining, with the majority of consumers now tipping for takeout, delivery, and rideshares. Here is what Americans say they're leaving:

In-restaurant dining: 20% median tip; **Takeout dining:** 16% median; **Food delivery:** 11% median; **Beauty services:** 14% median; **Rideshare services:** 10% median.

Many Americans see gifting as less about dollars spent and more about shared experiences. Some 44% say they'd rather give the "gift of time" than money or material items - and say their presence is the real gift. Eight in 10 say cash and gift cards are more acceptable today than in the past.



We are introducing a new kind of measure: the Going Rate. How we give, tip, and celebrate offers another lens into the economy alongside traditional data points.



How to Protect Your Home from Hail Damage

Smart, simple steps can help homeowners avoid expensive repairs this hail season.

As hailstorms grow more frequent and severe across many parts of the country, homeowners are looking for ways to better protect their properties. Insurance experts are sharing practical, affordable tips to help people safeguard their homes and avoid the high cost of hail-related damage.

With decades of experience insuring homes in high-risk regions, insurance experts are committed to helping homeowners stay prepared - before the first hailstone falls.

Hail protection checklist for your home:

Inspect and reinforce your roof: Check for missing or damaged shingles. If you live in a hail-prone area, consider upgrading to impact-resistant roofing materials.

Consider a FORTIFIED Roof upgrade:

These roofs use sealed decks, stronger nailing patterns, and high-impact shingles to better withstand storms.

Install hail-resistant window film or shutters: This can minimize the chance of breakage and reduce damage from flying debris.

Trim nearby trees: Remove weak branches and keep trees maintained to prevent falling limbs during a storm.

Protect your car: Park vehicles in a garage or under cover when hail is in the forecast.

Why It Matters: According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), hail causes billions in property damage every year. Experts encourage homeowners to review their insurance policies in advance and make sure they fully understand their coverage and deductibles.



Upcoming Events... *Don't miss out!*

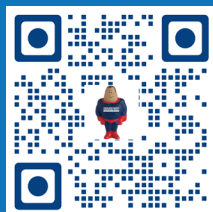
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WINTER WONDERLAND BINGO
December 9 from 12-1pm,
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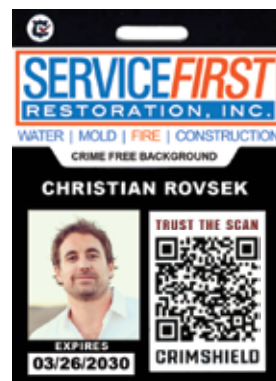


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