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IICRC WRT

Water Damage Restoration Technician (WRT)



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Question: 1

What shall a restorer make the first priority during the initial inspection process?

- A. Removing the excess water
- B. Checking for moisture in walls
- C. Conducting a hazard assessment
- D. Turning on the HVAC system

Answer: C

Explanation:

The IICRC WRT body of knowledge clearly states that the first priority during the initial inspection is conducting a hazard assessment. Before any restoration activities begin, technicians must identify and address conditions that could pose risks to workers, occupants, or the structure.

Common hazards in water-damaged environments include electrical risks, structural instability (such as sagging ceilings), slip and fall hazards, biological contaminants, and the presence of regulated materials like asbestos or lead. The WRT curriculum emphasizes that no mitigation action should proceed until these hazards are evaluated and controlled.

Removing water, inspecting walls, or operating HVAC systems are all important tasks—but only after safety has been ensured. The hierarchy of controls outlined in the WRT manual prioritizes hazard elimination, engineering controls, administrative controls, and PPE as appropriate.

This safety-first approach aligns with OSHA requirements and the ANSI/IICRC S500 Standard, reinforcing that professional restoration begins with protecting people before protecting property.

Question: 2

What happens when the surface temperature of a material is at or below the dew point temperature of the air?

- A. Dehumidification
- B. Evaporation
- C. Sublimation
- D. Condensation

Answer: D

Explanation:

According to the IICRC WRT body of knowledge, condensation occurs when the surface temperature of a material is at or below the dew point temperature of the surrounding air. Under these conditions, the air can no longer hold all of its water vapor, and moisture changes phase from vapor to liquid on the cooler surface.

This principle is fundamental to psychrometry and is directly applicable to water damage restoration. The WRT manual emphasizes that condensation represents a moisture gain, not moisture removal, and therefore counteracts drying efforts. When condensation occurs on structural materials, it can increase moisture content, prolong drying time, and contribute to secondary damage such as microbial growth or corrosion.

Restorers are trained to compare indoor air dew point measurements with surface temperatures of materials using thermo-hygrometers and infrared thermometers. If surface temperatures are below the dew point, corrective action—such as increasing temperature, improving dehumidification, or adjusting airflow—is required.

This concept also explains why cold surfaces like metal framing, concrete, or supply ductwork can develop moisture even without direct water exposure. The WRT curriculum stresses proactive monitoring to prevent unintended condensation events during drying.

Question: 3

After physically removing bulk water, what has the most significant influence on the time required to dry wet materials?

- A. Fiber saturation point
- B. Rate of evaporation
- C. Method of extraction
- D. Rate of condensation

Answer: B

Explanation:

Once bulk water has been physically removed, the IICRC WRT body of knowledge identifies the rate of evaporation as the most significant factor influencing drying time. Evaporation is the process by which remaining moisture within materials changes from liquid to vapor and enters the surrounding air. The WRT curriculum explains that evaporation is controlled by several interrelated variables, including vapor pressure differential, airflow across wet surfaces, surface temperature, and ambient humidity conditions. If evaporation is slow, drying time increases regardless of how effective extraction was initially.

While extraction method plays a critical role in reducing the initial moisture load, it does not control the drying phase once free water has been removed. Similarly, fiber saturation point describes moisture conditions within materials but does not dictate drying speed. Condensation, conversely, inhibits drying and adds moisture.

The WRT body of knowledge reinforces that successful drying requires creating conditions that maximize evaporation while simultaneously removing evaporated moisture through dehumidification or ventilation. Monitoring evaporation effectiveness is therefore a core responsibility of the restorer during daily inspections.

Question: 4

As the humidity ratio and dew point increase or decrease, what other psychrometric measurement also increases or decreases proportionally?

- A. Temperature
- B. Dehumidification rate
- C. Vapor pressure
- D. Permeability

Answer: C

Explanation:

The IICRC WRT body of knowledge explains that humidity ratio, dew point, and vapor pressure are directly related psychrometric measurements . When humidity ratio increases or decreases, both dew point and vapor pressure change proportionally.

Vapor pressure represents the energy exerted by water vapor molecules in the air. As more moisture is added to the air (higher humidity ratio), vapor pressure increases; when moisture is removed, vapor pressure decreases. Dew point follows the same pattern because it reflects the temperature at which that vapor pressure results in saturation.

Temperature and permeability are not directly proportional to humidity ratio, and dehumidification rate is a performance outcome rather than a psychrometric property.

Because vapor pressure governs moisture movement between materials and air, its proportional relationship to humidity ratio and dew point makes it one of the most important measurements in WRT drying science.

Question: 5

What steps should be taken to minimize safety concerns with sagging gypsum board ceilings and promote rapid drying?

- A. Drain, safely remove, and properly dispose
- B. Perforate to increase airflow while drying
- C. Drain, properly dry the gypsum, and reinstall
- D. Support to prevent collapse while drying

Answer: A

Explanation:

The IICRC WRT body of knowledge identifies sagging gypsum board ceilings as a serious structural and safety hazard . Gypsum board loses strength when wet, especially in horizontal installations, and sagging indicates primary damage that cannot be safely reversed.

The WRT manual clearly states that wet gypsum ceilings presenting sagging or collapse risk must be drained, safely removed, and properly disposed of . Attempting to dry sagging ceiling drywall in place is unsafe and inconsistent with professional standards.

Perforation or temporary support does not restore structural integrity and exposes workers and occupants to collapse hazards. Reinstallation is only appropriate after damaged materials are removed and the structure is dried.

This guidance reinforces the WRT principle that life safety always overrides salvage considerations . Removing compromised ceiling drywall eliminates hazards and allows drying equipment to operate more effectively on remaining structural components.

Question: 6

Which of the following materials is the most resistant to water damage?

- A. Builder's grade plywood
- B. Tempered hardboard
- C. Medium-density fiberboard
- D. Veneered particleboard

Answer: A

Explanation:

Among the listed materials, builder's grade plywood is the most resistant to water damage according to the IICRC WRT body of knowledge. Plywood is composed of cross-laminated wood veneers bonded with water-resistant adhesives, giving it greater dimensional stability and moisture tolerance compared to other engineered wood products.

Tempered hardboard, medium-density fiberboard (MDF), and particleboard are all highly moisture-sensitive. These materials rely on compressed fibers and resins that rapidly swell, lose structural integrity, and experience irreversible damage when exposed to water. The WRT manual identifies MDF and particleboard as particularly vulnerable, often requiring removal even after brief exposure. Builder's grade plywood, while not immune to damage, can often tolerate wetting, dry effectively, and regain much of its structural performance if contamination conditions permit. This makes it more likely to be restorable under Category 1 or some Category 2 conditions, depending on exposure duration and degree of damage.

The WRT curriculum uses this comparison to help technicians make informed decisions during initial inspection and material evaluation, reinforcing that not all engineered wood products behave the same when wet.

Question: 7

When should water damage restoration services begin?

- A. After the damage survey has been submitted
- B. After a restorer entered into a properly written contract
- C. After equipment and consumables arrive on-site
- D. After the drying standard has been determined

Answer: B

Explanation:

The IICRC WRT body of knowledge states that water damage restoration services should begin after a restorer has entered into a properly written contract with the property owner or authorized

representative. This ensures that scope, responsibilities, authorization, and limitations are clearly defined before work begins.

While emergency actions may be necessary to prevent imminent damage, the WRT standard emphasizes the importance of legal and professional authorization prior to performing restoration services. A written agreement protects both the restorer and the client by establishing expectations, access rights, and documentation requirements.

Submitting surveys, delivering equipment, or determining drying standards are procedural steps that occur after authorization is secured. Beginning work without authorization exposes the restorer to liability and disputes.

This requirement aligns with the WRT emphasis on professionalism, transparency, and defensibility.

Question: 8

When considering the use of outdoor air, which of the following conditions is the best?

- A. 50°F (10°C) and 80% RH
- B. 60°F (16°C) and 60% RH
- C. 70°F (21°C) and 30% RH
- D. 80°F (27°C) and 70% RH

Answer: C

Explanation:

The IICRC WRT body of knowledge teaches that the suitability of outdoor air for ventilation drying depends on humidity ratio, not relative humidity alone. The best outdoor air conditions are those with the lowest humidity ratio, allowing moisture to be removed from the indoor environment.

Among the options, 70°F and 30% RH has the lowest humidity ratio, making it the most effective for ventilation. Low humidity ratio air reduces indoor vapor pressure and supports evaporation without introducing excess moisture.

High relative humidity—even at cooler temperatures—often carries more moisture than drier warm air.

The WRT manual cautions restorers against using outdoor air based solely on comfort perception.

Psychrometric comparison is required.

Using inappropriate outdoor air can increase indoor moisture levels and slow drying. Therefore, option C represents the best condition under WRT principles.

Question: 9

What should a technician do in a Category 3 water intrusion when high-risk individuals are present?

- A. Retain an Indoor Environmental Professional (IEP)
- B. Install additional air movers and dehumidifiers
- C. Always perform a mold test to verify remediation effectiveness
- D. Be primarily concerned with the dehumidifier's AHAM rating

Answer: A

Explanation:

The IICRC WRT body of knowledge states that when high-risk individuals (such as the elderly, infants, immunocompromised persons, or those with respiratory conditions) are present during a Category 3 water intrusion, an Indoor Environmental Professional (IEP) should be retained.

Category 3 water is grossly contaminated and poses significant health risks. The WRT manual explains that an IEP provides independent assessment, sampling strategies, and recommendations to protect occupant health and guide appropriate remediation decisions.

Increasing equipment or focusing on AHAM ratings does not address health risk evaluation. Mold testing is not automatically required and may not be appropriate during active mitigation.

Retaining an IEP ensures objective decision-making, regulatory alignment, and enhanced protection for vulnerable occupants, consistent with IICRC guidance.

Question: 10

Which term describes the amount of moisture contained in an air sample as compared to the maximum amount the air sample could contain at that temperature?

- A. Dew point
- B. Humidity ratio
- C. Relative humidity
- D. Absolute humidity

Answer: C

Explanation:

Relative humidity (RH) is defined in the WRT body of knowledge as the amount of moisture contained in an air sample compared to the maximum amount that the same air sample could contain at that temperature (i.e., at saturation). The WRT manual explains RH as a percentage measure on the psychrometric chart—expressing the proportion of moisture present versus what the air could hold if saturated at that same temperature.

This definition is essential because RH is temperature-dependent: as air temperature changes, RH changes even if the actual moisture content (humidity ratio) stays the same. The WRT reference emphasizes that air can hold more water vapor as temperature increases; therefore, increasing temperature decreases RH (with no added moisture), while decreasing temperature increases RH.

In restoration practice, RH is used as a practical indicator of the drying environment and a predictor of moisture behavior in hygroscopic materials. The WRT manual notes that hygroscopic materials have an equilibrium moisture content primarily determined by RH: when RH is low, materials generally lose moisture; when RH is high—especially above about 60%—materials tend to gain significant moisture, increasing the likelihood of secondary damage.

Although restorers frequently track humidity ratio (GPP) and vapor pressure to quantify drying force, RH remains a core operational measurement because it is directly readable from a thermo-hygrometer and aligns with material response risk thresholds. Consequently, RH is the correct term for the described comparison-to-maximum-at-temperature concept, and it is one of the foundational psychrometric variables used in WRT to manage drying conditions and prevent secondary damage.

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