



800/699-1176  
www.CompleatRestorations.com



## CASE STUDY: Drying After Hurricanes



Lancaster, PA  
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On August 18, Cliff Ellis, Compleat Restorations' C.E.O., left for Florida with two restoration teams. Compleat Restorations had been summoned to gather with other Water Out® service providers and DKI (Disaster Kleenup International) members from across the nation to help with restoration efforts following Hurricane Charley. All totalled, over 25,000 pieces of equipment and 1,000 project managers and technicians were deployed.

Compleat Restorations is a member of DKI and Water Out. Each represents an alliance of professional restoration contractors which can be mobilized upon short notice to aid fellow members in situations of catastrophic loss. Should we ever experience a large-scale loss in southcentral PA, Compleat Restorations can rely on DKI and Water Out to send additional response teams to aid in timely emergency response and restoration.

While in Florida, Compleat Restorations dried water damaged buildings using our Water Out trailers. Water Out is an “open” drying system, using outside air, not recycled air. It works by pulling outside air into a Water Out trailer where it is conditioned to a super dry 2% RH (Relative Humidity). Compare that to a desert, which averages 20% RH! That fresh, dry, outside air is pumped into the flooded building and circulated throughout. Before that dry air is exhausted from the building it has absorbed huge quantities of water, odors and mold spores. The moisture is sent outside with **zero** recirculation. Fresh, dry air in. Wet, musty air out.

Water Out’s technology far surpasses the performance of older drying methods. Drying documentation can also be provided, as a laptop-based data logging system ensures that application of the Water Out system leaves the structure dry upon completion. Numerous Florida office buildings, businesses, hotels, and crawl spaces were dried with Water Out.

Our crews left Pennsylvania during Summer not knowing what they would find upon their arrival in Florida. They returned in Fall, two months later, having restored properties from the aftermath of not just one hurricane, but several. During their stay, The Sunshine State was also ravaged by Hurricanes Frances, Ivan and Jeanne.

Our crews describe their trip as successful and rewarding. But like all adventurers, they did experience challenges. They weren't sure where they would sleep some nights, there were long commutes from burgeoning hotels to the work sites, there were gas shortages, power outages, heat, humidity, hurricanes, tropical storms, and some startling encounters with native wildlife, namely snakes!

