

Silt Recovery Taskforce guide:

Clearing silt from underneath your house

The flooding from Cyclone Gabrielle inundated many Hawke's Bay homes with silt and debris, with silt settling underneath some houses. The Silt Recovery Taskforce is working to collect silt and debris cleared from properties and placed in a pile for collection.

If you have silt underneath your house that needs to be cleared, there are companies that can do this for you. Before you get in touch with them, there are steps you can take to make the clean-up easier and help your house to dry out.

1. Drain any water still under your house.
2. Increase airflow under your house by removing ventilation grilles in foundation walls, taking off some baseboards, leaving access doors open, and cutting back plants obstructing vents.
3. Remove any silt that is obstructing vents, covers the connecting bolts to braces, or is within 550mm of a particle board or timber floor.
4. Remove insulation (including foil) where it has been under water, only keep polystyrene.
5. Check for foundations damaged or undermined by water. Where water has entered the house, it may be necessary to remove part of the floor under baths/showers to remove silt.

SILT REMOVAL COMPANIES

These are some of the companies that remove silt underneath houses in Hawke's Bay, generally without removing floorboards:

- **Clean sweep woolsheds:** markturton@xtra.co.nz or 027 682 1186
- **Clever Home Solutions NZ:** cleverhomesolutionsnz@gmail.com or 027 503 1293
- **Wilco Contracting:** siltremoval@wilco.co.nz

There may be other suitable local suppliers in your areas. For suppliers in Wairoa please get in touch with the District Council 06 838 7309 or www.wairoadc.govt.nz

How do they remove the silt from sub floor?

For houses without a membrane and depending on the company, the silt is either removed by hand alongside a conveyer belt, or a hydraulic machine is used to remove the silt from underneath the house. If silt has built up on studs or floor board, a high pressure water jet will be used to clean the silt off.

If the house does have a membrane, the process is simpler because it can be removed in sections.

How do I get silt collected once removed?

Once silt has been removed from underneath your house, put it in a pile near the entrance to your property ready for it to be collected. Please request a collection by calling 0800 108 838 or filling in the online form.

References

BRANZ | Restoring a home after flood damage | www.branz.co.nz/pubs/bulletins/bu666

MBIE | Remediation, repair and, urgent Works | Building Performance | www.building.govt.nz/remediation-repair-and-urgent-works

Vero: Wild weather clean up FAQs | www.vero.co.nz/documents/claims/Vero-WildWeatherCleanUp-FAQs.pdf