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The Risk of Using Temporary Storage Containers for Storage During Residential Cleaning Projects

Homeowners Education

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The temporary storage container has become popular in recent years. Homeowners who plan a big move to a new house love these containers because they let them pack their belongings on their own time instead of loading the truck as quickly as possible on moving day. They deliver a portable storage unit and leave it in the driveway, allowing homeowners to pack boxes and furniture into the crew.

One of the big pain points for restoration companies is getting the client's belongings out of the house before starting repair work. This process is time-consuming and costly if the restoration team offers to remove furniture, books, electronics, and other items from home before repairing the damage caused by a fire or flood. This type of storage solution has perks for residential restoration companies as well. They can spend hours or even days packing the items and transporting them to an off-site storage unit. This storage site costs money, too, further cutting into the profits that the restoration contractor is taking for the job.

Restoration teams can save hours and make their rental packages more flexible with a portable storage unit in the driveway. Its costs also tend to be lower, and its rental packages are flexible.

However, significant risks come with using this if your enterprise is in the residential refurbishment business. Then you need to be aware of these risks before deciding whether a portable on-demand storage unit is the right option.

First off, temporary storage containers are subject to theft. Offsite storage facilities might be inconvenient—especially if the restoration project takes only a day or two. However, offsite storage facilities also have fences, surveillance, and other elements of security that can provide substantial peace of mind. It offers none of this security. They have nominally protected storage units where all thieves have to do to gain access to precious belongings is break a padlock. The risk of theft might be low—especially in a pleasant residential area. But storing a customer's belongings in a unit overnight is still a considerable risk.

Temporary storage container lacks proper climate control. A safe offsite storage facility will be heated or air-conditioned, depending on the time of year, to keep belongings in good condition. A standalone unit on a blacktop driveway can quickly climb into the extreme temperature range on the Consumer Affairs page. A customer review claims they destroyed their 60-inch Sony TV due to excessive heat.

If your residential restoration company doesn't have content insurance—as most do not—you could be on the hook for any theft or damage on your watch. Includes theft or damage to a customer's prized belongings while in the unit. Such a risk is not worth it, even despite its convenience.

Our EC Pros can offer a better solution. On day one, we come into your client's house and carefully pack their belongings. Next, we haul everything away to our secure and climate-controlled storage warehouse. You'll have time and freedom to restore the home without worrying about theft or damage. We also have contents insurance, so it's covered if anything damaged is on our watch.

Don't play Russian roulette with your customer's belongings. Our company will neutralize the risks and free you from packing and storing anything. Call us today to learn how we work.