



## Classes of Water Intrusion

In 1994 the IICRC (Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification), published the S500 standard and reference guide. This document was the first attempt at a coordinated, consensus – driven procedural standard in the restoration industry. It was the second standard that the IICRC published, the first of which being the S001 – Carpet cleaning standards. The S500-1994 was simple and concise and within months of publication a new committee was established to begin working on the second edition. Over the years the IICRC has revised the S500 and subsequently released updated versions, and recently they released its fourth version, the S500-2015.

Within the S500, there is a section that defines the classes of water intrusion. This is an important tool that is used to determine the equipment that is needed to dry out the affected area. Class of water intrusion is a classification of the estimated evaporation load; is used when calculating the initial humidity control (i.e. dehumidification and ventilation). As defined by the S500, the classification is based on the approximate amount of wet surface area, and the presence and porosity of affected materials remaining within the drying environment at the time drying is initiated. Information needed to determine Class should be gathered during the inspection process. The classes are divided into four separate descriptions, Class 1, 2, 3, and 4. Below are the definitions of the four classes according to the S500.

- **Class 1** – (least amount of water absorption and evaporation load): water intrusion where wet, porous materials (carpet, gypsum board, fiber-fill insulation, concrete masonry unit [CMU], textiles) represent less than 5% of the combined floor, wall, and ceiling surface area in the space; and where materials described as low evaporation materials (plaster, wood, concrete, masonry) or low evaporation assemblies (multilayer wallboard, multilayer sub-floors, gym floors, or other complex built up assemblies) have absorbed minimal moisture.
- **Class 2** – (significant amount of water absorption and evaporation load): water intrusion where wet, porous materials (carpet, gypsum board, fiber-fill insulation, concrete masonry unit [CMU], textiles) represent 5% to 40% of the combined floor, wall, and ceiling surface area in the space; and where materials described as low evaporation materials (plaster, wood, concrete, masonry) or low evaporation assemblies (multilayer wallboard, multilayer sub-floors, gym floors, or other complex built up assemblies) have absorbed minimal moisture.
- **Class 3** – (greatest amount of water absorption and evaporation load): water intrusion where wet, porous materials (carpet, gypsum board, fiber-fill insulation, concrete masonry unit [CMU], textiles) represent more than 40% of the combined floor, wall, and ceiling surface area in the space; and where materials described as low evaporation materials (plaster, wood, concrete, masonry) or low evaporation assemblies (multilayer wallboard, multilayer sub-floors, gym floors, or other complex built up assemblies) have absorbed minimal moisture.
- **Class 4** – (deeply held or bound water): water intrusion where wet, porous materials (carpet, gypsum board, fiber-fill insulation, concrete masonry unit [CMU], textiles) represent more than 40% of the combined floor, wall, and ceiling surface area in the space; and where materials described as low evaporation materials (plaster, wood, concrete, masonry) or low evaporation assemblies (multilayer wallboard, multilayer sub-floors, gym floors, or other complex built up assemblies). Drying may require special methods, longer drying times, or substantial water vapor pressure differentials.”(source: S500-2015 Fourth Edition, Section B. Definitions)

It is important not to confuse Classes with Categories. As a reminder, categories are used when defining the type of water that caused the loss, whereas classes define the amount of area affected. Category 1 being clean water, Category 2 being grey water, and Category 3 being black water.

**If you are to ever experience a water loss or need help in the remediation process, make sure and contact an IICRC certified restoration contractor to get the damage cleaned and repaired. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.**

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# February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 AAFAME Luncheon	4 SAMA Luncheon ACA Luncheon	5 CE Class	6
7	8 IREM Luncheon	9 SACA Luncheon	10 Hill Country MO	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17 SABOMA Luncheon IIASA Luncheon	18 BOMA Austin Luncheon	19 CAMO Meeting	20
21	22	23	24	25 IWSA Luncheon	26	27
28	29					

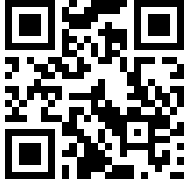
## Events

February 3: AAFAME Luncheon  
 February 4: SAMA Luncheon  
 February 4: ACA Luncheon  
 February 5: CE Class  
 February 8: IREM Luncheon  
 February 9: SACA Luncheon  
 February 10: Hill Country MO  
 February 14: Valentine's Day  
 February 17: IIASA Luncheon  
 February 17: SA BOMA Luncheon  
 February 18: Austin BOMA Luncheon  
 February 19: CAMO Meeting  
 February 25: IWSA Luncheon

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