



Mold Clean-Up Procedures

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1. Identify and fix the moisture problem. This is the most important step in solving the problem.

Common indoor moisture sources include: flooding, condensation (caused by indoor humidity that is too high or surfaces that are too cold), movement of moisture through basement walls or slab, roof leaks, plumbing leaks, overflows from tubs, sinks or toilets, humidifier use, inadequate venting of kitchen and bathroom humidity, failure to vent clothes dryer exhaust outdoors, line drying indoors. Ventilation, air circulation and dehumidification are all important in controlling high humidity that frequently causes mold growth.

2. Begin drying all wet materials as soon as possible.

For severe moisture problems, use fans and dehumidifiers and move wet items away from walls and off floors. Consider renting fans and dehumidifiers from rental companies.

3. Remove and dispose of mold contaminated materials.

This includes drywall, insulation, carpet/carpet pad, ceiling tiles, wood products (other than solid wood) and paper products. Any porous materials that have come into contact with sewage should also be thrown away. Be sure to protect yourself during clean up. Use rubber gloves, eye protection and long sleeve clothing and wash or discard the clothing as soon as possible. In addition, use of a medium efficiency or high efficiency mask is recommended, such as a NIOSH approved N95 air filter mask. These masks are available at most larger hardware stores and are relatively inexpensive. To minimize the spread of mold spores place the moldy materials in plastic bags prior to carrying them through the home. When finished, damp clean the entire work area to pick up settled contaminants in the dust.

4. Non-porous materials with surface mold should be cleaned well and dried. Thoroughly scrub all contaminated surfaces using a stiff brush, hot water and a non-ammonia soap/detergent or commercial cleaner. Wipe down cleaned surfaces with clean water.

5. Disinfect surfaces (if desired), after cleaning has removed all visible mold. Mix one quarter to one half cup of bleach per gallon of water and apply to surfaces. This can be applied with a spray bottle, garden sprayer, sponge or other method. Do not rinse or wipe off the bleach solution. Let it dry on the surface. Collect any runoff from the areas being treated with a wet mop etc. **NOTE: Always handle bleach with caution. Use gloves and eye protection. Never mix bleach with ammonia because a toxic gas can be produced.** Bleach can be an irritant. Provide fresh air when using such as opening a window or door. Make sure all areas are thoroughly dry when you are finished.

6. Keep an eye out for mold growth. If it returns repeat clean up steps. Try to determine if the moisture problem is not yet controlled and take steps to control.

