

After the Storm: Keep Mold Away



FOR RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY FLOODING

Mold growth can begin quickly after flooding and may pose health risks.

Where to start

- **Get the mess out.** Remove all floodwater, dirt, and debris left behind by the floodwater.
- **Remove moldy materials.** Moldy or mildewed building materials should be cleaned and dried or removed and replaced. Any materials or furnishings that soaked up water and cannot be cleaned thoroughly should be removed from the building.
- **Check your flooring.** Carpet and padding cannot typically be cleaned well enough. Throw them away.
- **Dry out walls.** Walls must remain open to allow them to completely dry. Plaster, brick and concrete block walls can probably be cleaned, disinfected and completely dried.
- **Salvage what you can.** Personal property and furnishings that are wet for 24-48 hours after floodwater recedes will most likely have mold growing in or on them. Clothing and linens may be salvaged by washing with detergent.
- **Discard porous materials.** Anything else that cannot be laundered or disinfected should be thrown out.

Clean and dry the right way



- Wet down mold. Before you touch, move, or clean moldy or mildewed materials, wet the mold with a soapy solution from a spray bottle to prevent the mold from getting into the air.
- A liquid chlorine bleach solution (one cup of bleach to one gallon of water) should be used to disinfect and kill any remaining mold and mildew. Open windows and doors first. Never mix bleach with other cleaning products containing ammonia. Use as directed on label.
- After cleaning and disinfecting, you must completely dry each item or mold and mildew will return. To speed drying, keep fresh air circulating.

Stay safe while you work. To keep from getting sick, wear rubber gloves while working and a face mask ("NIOSH" approval and an N-95 rating). Also make sure to wear a hard hat, safety goggles or glasses, gloves, rubber, or hard-soled boots. Do not eat, drink, or smoke in the house; and wash your hands frequently with soap.

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

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