

Dry Out Your House

If flood or storm water has entered your home, dry it out as soon as possible.

Safely Preventing Mold Growth

- Clean up and dry out the building quickly (within 24 to 48 hours). Open doors and windows. Use fans to dry out the building.
- **When in doubt, take it out!** Remove all porous items that have been wet for more than 48 hours and that cannot be thoroughly cleaned and dried. These items can remain a source of mold growth and should be removed from the home. Porous, non-cleanable items include carpeting and carpet padding, upholstery, wallpaper, drywall, floor and ceiling tiles, insulation material, some clothing, leather, paper, wood, and food. Removal and cleaning are important because even dead mold may cause allergic reactions in some people.
- To *prevent* mold growth, clean wet items and surfaces with detergent and water.
- Homeowners may want to temporarily store items outside of the home until insurance claims can be filed. If you wish to disinfect, refer to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) document, [A Brief Guide to Mold and Moisture in Your Home](#).
- **If there is mold growth in your home, you should clean up the mold** and fix any water problem, such as leaks in roofs, walls, or plumbing. Controlling moisture in your home is the most critical factor for preventing mold growth.
- To *remove* mold growth from hard surfaces use commercial products, soap and water, or a **bleach solution of no more than 1 cup of household laundry bleach in 1 gallon of water**. Use a stiff brush on rough surface materials such as concrete.

If you choose to use bleach to remove mold:

- Never mix bleach with ammonia or other household cleaners. Mixing bleach with ammonia or other cleaning products will produce dangerous, toxic fumes
- Open windows and doors to provide fresh air.
- Wear non-porous gloves and protective eye wear.
- If the area to be cleaned is more than 10 square feet, consult the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guide titled [Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings](#).
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using bleach or any other cleaning product.

If you plan to be inside the building for a while or you plan to clean up mold, you should buy an N95 mask at your local home supply store and wear it while in the building. Make certain that you follow instructions on the package for fitting the mask tightly to your face. If you go back into the building for a short time and are not cleaning up mold, you do not need to wear an N95 mask.

For more information, go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/>

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