

of past growth. If mold returns, repeat cleaning steps and consider using a stronger solution to disinfect the area again. Re-growth may signal that the material should be removed or that moisture is not yet controlled.

When can we rebuild?

Rebuilding and refurbishing must wait until all affected materials have dried completely. Be patient-it takes time to dry out wet building materials. A moisture meter may help measure the drying progress.

Can ozone air cleaner remove indoor mold?

Some air cleaners are designed to produce ozone which is a strong oxidizing agent and a *known irritant of the lungs and respiratory system*. Studies have shown that ozone, even at high concentrations, is not effective at killing airborne mold or surface mold contamination. Even if mold was killed by ozone, the health threats would not be reduced until mold contaminants are removed through cleaning. Health experts, do *not* recommend, the use of ozone to address mold or any other indoor air problems.

This information was obtained from the Minnesota Department of Health, Indoor Air Quality Program's fact sheet entitled "Mold In Homes"

For More Information:

Links to the following documents can be found at www.cal-iaq.org/MOLD/

Repairing Your Flooded Home: Excellent resource by the American Red Cross and FEMA, with details on technical and logistical issues.

Guidelines on Assessment and Remediation of Fungi in Indoor Environments: Widely referenced guidelines developed by the New York City Department of Health.

Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings: Valuable, new guidance by U.S. EPA, also applicable to residences.

Clean-up Procedures for Mold in House. Available from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp, Phone 1-800-668-2642. Effective Hands-on information for affected homeowners.

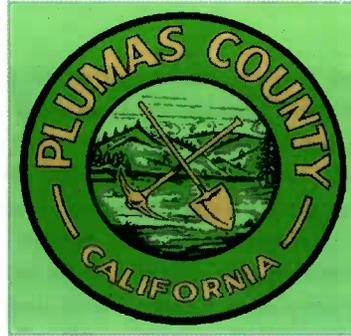
Consultants, Laboratories and Clinics

Association of Occupational and Environmental

Clinics: Phone: 202-347-4976 or on the web at <http://gilligan.mc.duke.edu/oem/aoc.htm>

CA Department of Health Services

Environmental Health Investigations Branch
Phone 510-540-2476 or on the web at
www.dhs.ca.gov/org/ps/deodc/ehlb/iaq



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Mold Clean Up and Removal Guidelines

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Mold Cleanup and Removal

The following information is provided as a guideline to help you clean up and remove mold from your home. To clean up and remove indoor mold growth, follow steps 1-6 as they apply to your home.

1. Identify and Fix the Moisture Problem

The most important step in solving a mold problem is to identify and correct the moisture source(s) that allowed the growth in the first place. Common indoor moisture sources include:

- Flooding
- Condensation (caused by indoor humidity that is too high or surfaces that are too cold)
- Movement through basement walls and slab
- Roof leaks
- Plumbing leaks
- Overflow from tubs, sinks, or toilets
- Firewood stored indoors
- Humidifier use
- Inadequate venting of kitchen and bath humidity
- Improper venting of combustion appliances
- Failure to vent clothes dryer exhaust outdoors
- Line drying laundry indoors
- House plants-watering them can generate large amounts of moisture

2. Begin Drying All Wet Materials

As soon as possible, begin drying any materials that are wet. For severe moisture problems, use fans and dehumidifiers and move wet items away from walls and off floors. Check with equipment rental companies or restoration firms to see if you can rent fans and dehumidifiers.

3. Remove and Dispose of Mold Contaminated Materials

Items which have absorbed moisture (porous materials) and which have mold growing on them need to be removed, bagged and thrown out. Such materials may include sheet rock, insulation, plaster, carpet/carpet pad, ceiling tiles, wood products (other than solid wood), and paper products. Likewise, any such porous materials that have contacted sewage should also be bagged and thrown away. Non-porous materials with surface mold growth may be saved if they are cleaned well and kept dry (see step 4).

Take Steps to Protect Yourself

The amount of mold particles in the air can increase greatly when mold is disturbed. Consider using protective equipment when handling or working around mold contaminated materials. The following equipment can help minimize exposure to mold:

- Rubber gloves
- Eye goggles
- Outer clothing (long sleeves and long pants) that can be easily removed in the work area and laundered or discarded
- Medium-efficiency or high-efficiency filter dust mask at a minimum, use N-95 or equivalent dust mask.

Take Steps to Protect Others

Plan and perform all work to minimize the amount of dust generated. The following actions can help minimize the spread of mold spores:

- Enclose all moldy materials in plastic (bags or sheets) before carrying through the home.
- Hang plastic sheeting to separate the work area from the rest of the home
- Remove outer layer of work clothing in the work area and wash separately or bag.

- Damp clean the entire work area to pick up settled contaminants in dust

4. Clean Surfaces

Surface mold growing on non-porous materials such as hard plastic, concrete, glass, metal, and solid wood can usually be cleaned. Cleaning must remove and capture the mold contamination because dead spores and mold particles still cause health problems if they are left in place.

- Thoroughly scrub all contaminated surfaces using a stiff brush, hot water and a non-ammonia soap/detergent or commercial cleaner.
- Collect excess cleaning liquid with a wet/dry vacuum, mop or sponge.
- Rinse area with clean water and collect excess rinse water.

5. Disinfect Surfaces (if desired)

After cleaning has removed all visible mold and other soiling from contaminated surfaces, a disinfectant may be used to kill mold missed by the cleaning. In the case of sewage contamination, disinfecting must be performed.

- Mix 1/4 to 1/2 cup bleach per gallon of water and apply to surfaces where mold growth was visible before cleaning. The solution can be applied with a spray bottle, garden sprayer, it can be sponged on, or applied by other methods.
- Collect any run-off of bleach solution with a wet/dry vacuum, sponge or mop. However, do not rinse or wipe the bleach solution off the areas being treated-allow it to dry on the surface.

Always handle bleach with caution. **Never mix bleach with ammonia-toxic chlorine gas may result.** Bleach can irritate the eyes, nose, throat, and skin. Provide fresh air (for example, open a window or door). Protect skin and eyes from contact with bleach. Test solution on a small area before treatment, since bleach is very corrosive and may damage some materials.

6. Remain on MOLD ALERT

Continue looking for signs of moisture problems or return of mold growth. Be particularly alert to moisture in areas