



Mold and Flooding: Cleanup Tips and Guidance

BEFORE YOU CLEAN:

Be cautious. People with breathing problems, allergies, or weakened immune systems should avoid mold cleanup areas. Testing for mold is not necessary.

Toss it out. Remove and throw away damaged or wet furniture, carpeting, drywall, or household items that cannot be disinfected or dried. Take pictures for filing insurance claims.

Air it out. Dry and ventilate your home as much as possible within 24 to 48 hours after flood waters have receded. When electricity is safe to use, use fans and dehumidifiers to keep the area dry. Keep portable generators 20 feet away from your home when in use.

WHILE YOU CLEAN:

Protect yourself. Use proper personal protective equipment (mask, goggles, gloves) to protect your mouth, eyes, nose, and skin.

Don't mix cleaners. Do not mix products containing ammonia with bleach because this creates harmful vapors.

HOW TO CLEAN:

Be cautious when using bleach by using a mask, goggles, and gloves. Never mix ammonia or acids with bleach.

To clean household surfaces **with** visible mold growth:

- Mix 1 cup of household bleach with 1 gallon of water.
- Wash surfaces with bleach mixture and scrub rough surfaces with a stiff brush.
- Allow to air dry.

To clean and sanitize household surfaces **without** visible mold growth:

- Clean surfaces with a detergent (e.g., dish or laundry) and warm, clean water.
- Rinse with clean water.
- Sanitize by washing surfaces with a mixture of 1 cup of household bleach with 5 gallons of water.
- Allow to air dry.

Some cleanup jobs are too dangerous or challenging for homeowners. For a list of mold remediation contractors, visit:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mold

Floods pose many other dangers. For additional guidance on flood hazards and recovery, visit:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/flood

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Indoor Air and Radon Program

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