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## How to kill Mold

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Mold Remediation Procedures

Mold remediation and decontamination are based on five principles:

- Protect the health of occupants and workers
- Document conditions and work
- Control source of contamination
- Remove the contamination
- Fix the moisture problem

A variety of methods are available to remediate damage to buildings and furnishings caused by moisture-control problems and mold. The procedures selected depend on the size of the moldy area and the type of contaminated materials. Budget may also be a concern. The methods presented in this section outline one approach; some professionals may prefer to use other methods. If possible, remediation activities should be scheduled during off-hours, when building occupants are less likely to be affected.

First thing The water leak or source should be fixed or removed.

Cleanup methods may include:

### Wet Vacuum

Wet, or water-extraction, vacuums are designed to collect water. They can be used to remove water that has accumulated on floors, carpets, and hard surfaces. Wet vacuums should be used only when materials are still wet, otherwise they may spread mold spores. Wet vacuums alone will not dry carpets. Wet carpets must be pulled up and dried, then reinstalled. The carpet padding also must be dried. The tanks, hoses, and attachments of wet vacuums should be thoroughly cleaned and dried after use because mold and mold spores may stick to their surfaces.

### Damp Wipe

Mold can generally be removed from hard surfaces by wiping or scrubbing with water and Moldstat. Always follow the cleaning instructions on product labels. Surfaces cleaned by damp wiping should be dried quickly and thoroughly to discourage further mold growth. Porous materials that are wet and have mold growing on them may have to be discarded. Because mold will infiltrate porous substances and grow on or fill in empty spaces or crevices, completely removing mold can be difficult, if not impossible. Mold can also cause staining and other cosmetic damage.

### HEPA Vacuum

High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) vacuums are recommended for the final clean up of remediation areas after materials have been thoroughly dried and contaminated materials have been removed. HEPA vacuums are also recommended for cleaning up

dust that has settled outside the remediation area. When changing the vacuum filter, workers should wear PPE to prevent exposure to mold that has been captured in the vacuum. The filter and contents of the HEPA vacuum must be disposed of in well-sealed plastic bags. Care must be taken to ensure that the new filter is properly seated on the vacuum so there are no leaks.

#### Throw Away Damaged Materials

Mold-contaminated building materials that cannot be salvaged should be double-bagged in 6-mil or thicker polyethylene bags. The bagged materials usually can be discarded as ordinary construction waste. Packaging mold-contaminated materials in sealed bags before removing them from the containment area is important to minimize the spread of mold spores throughout the building. Large items that have heavy mold growth should be covered with polyethylene sheeting and sealed with duct tape before being removed from the containment area.

#### 5 Step For Chemical Procedure

##### **STEP ONE:**

A contaminated area can be contained with a single layer of polyethylene sheeting and duct tape.

A slit should be made for entry.

A respirator, gloves, and goggles should be used for protection.

##### **STEP TWO:**

A Hepa Vacuums should be used to remove water and dry non-replaceable or reusable materials.

All removed materials should be disposed according to state law.

##### **STEP THREE:**

Peroxy Kling should be used to decontaminate... Apply peroxy kling directly on mold and mildew. Allow Product to remain on treated area for 3-5 minutes. Rinse or whip Peroxy Kling off. For Heavily Contaminated Areas light scrubbing may be required. Allow area to dry before proceeding to the next step.

##### **STEP FOUR:**

Apply Moldstat Plus with a pump sprayer apply a level coat of solution, 6 -8 inches away from surface. Rub with a brush, sponge or cloth. Do not breathe spray mist.

##### **STEP FIVE:**

Mold Resistant

Coating and Encapsulator

Pump spray the Encapsulator on all areas around and on the affect area. This Encapsulator is a EPA registered fungicide that is UV resistant and ready to use. This prevents water and mold from penetrating new and old materials. Contains a vanishing tracer dye to indicate coverage.

Please Read All Product Labels Also

(photo, Terry Brennan)

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(photo, Terry Brennan)

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## Mold Health Affects

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### Health Effects and Symptoms Associated with Mold Exposure

When moisture problems occur and mold growth results, building occupants may begin to report odors and a variety of health problems, such as headaches, breathing difficulties, skin irritation, allergic reactions, and aggravation of asthma symptoms; all of these symptoms could potentially be associated with mold exposure.

All molds have the potential to cause health effects. Molds produce allergens, irritants, and in some cases, toxins that may cause reactions in humans. The types and severity of symptoms depend, in part, on the types of mold present, the extent of an individual's exposure, the ages of the individuals, and their existing sensitivities or allergies. Research on mold and health effects is ongoing. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive.

The health effects listed above are well documented in humans. Evidence for other health effects in humans is less substantial and is primarily based on case reports or occupational studies.

Specific reactions to mold growth can include the following:

- **Allergic Reactions**

Inhaling or touching mold or mold spores may cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals. Allergic reactions to mold are common - these reactions can be immediate or delayed. Allergic responses include hay fever-type symptoms, such as sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and skin rash (dermatitis). Mold spores and fragments can produce allergic reactions in sensitive individuals regardless of whether the mold is dead or alive. Repeated or single exposure to mold or mold spores may cause previously non-sensitive individuals to become sensitive. Repeated exposure has the potential to increase sensitivity.

- **Asthma**

Molds can trigger asthma attacks in persons who are allergic (sensitized) to molds. The irritants produced by molds may also worsen asthma in non-allergic (non-sensitized) people.

- **Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis**

Hypersensitivity pneumonitis may develop following either short-term (acute) or long-term (chronic) exposure to molds. The disease resembles bacterial pneumonia and is

uncommon.

- **Irritant Effects**

Mold exposure can cause irritation of the eyes, skin, nose, throat, and lungs, and sometimes can create a burning sensation in these areas.

- **Opportunistic Infections**

People with weakened immune systems (i.e., immune-compromised or immune-suppressed individuals) may be more vulnerable to infections by molds (as well as more vulnerable than healthy persons to mold toxins).

*Aspergillus fumigatus*, for example, has been known to infect the lungs of immune-compromised individuals. These individuals inhale the mold spores which then start growing in their lungs. *Trichoderma* has also been known to infect immune-compromised children.

Healthy individuals are usually not vulnerable to opportunistic infections from airborne mold exposure. However, molds can cause common skin diseases, such as athlete's foot, as well as other infections such as yeast infections.

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## Toxic Mold

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### Mold Toxins (Mycotoxins)

Molds can produce toxic substances called mycotoxins. Some mycotoxins cling to the surface of mold spores; others may be found within spores. More than 200 mycotoxins have been identified from common molds, and many more remain to be identified. Some of the molds that are known to produce mycotoxins are commonly found in moisture-damaged buildings. Exposure pathways for mycotoxins can include inhalation, ingestion, or skin contact. Although some mycotoxins are well known to affect humans and have been shown to be responsible for human health effects, for many mycotoxins, little information is available.

Aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> is perhaps the most well known and studied mycotoxin. It can be produced by the molds *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus* and is one of the most potent carcinogens known. Ingestion of aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> can cause liver cancer. There is also some evidence that inhalation of aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> can cause lung cancer. Aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> has been found on contaminated grains, peanuts, and other human and animal foodstuffs. However, *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus* are *not* commonly found on building materials or in indoor environments.

Much of the information on the human health effects of inhalation exposure to mycotoxins comes from studies done in the workplace and some case studies or case reports.\* Many symptoms and human health effects attributed to inhalation of mycotoxins have been reported including: mucous membrane irritation, skin rash, nausea, immune system suppression, acute or chronic liver damage, acute or chronic central nervous system damage, endocrine effects, and cancer. More studies are needed to get a clear picture of the health effects related to most mycotoxins. However, it is clearly prudent to avoid exposure to molds and mycotoxins.

Some molds can produce several toxins, and some molds produce mycotoxins only under certain environmental conditions. The presence of mold in a building does not necessarily mean that mycotoxins are present or that they are present in large quantities.

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\* Information on ingestion exposure, for both humans and animals, is more abundant -- wide range of health effects has been reported following ingestion of moldy foods including liver damage, nervous system damage, and immunological effects.

### Toxic Molds

Some molds, such as *Aspergillus versicolor* and *Stachybotrys atra (chartarum)*, are known to produce potent toxins under certain circumstances. Although some mycotoxins are well known to affect humans and have been shown to be responsible for human health effects, for many mycotoxins, little information is available, and in some cases research is ongoing. For example, some strains of *Stachybotrys atra* can produce one or more potent toxins. In addition, preliminary reports from an investigation of an outbreak of pulmonary hemorrhage in infants suggested an association between pulmonary hemorrhage and exposure to *Stachybotrys chartarum*. Review of the evidence of this association at CDC resulted in a published clarification stating that such an association was not established. Research on the possible causes of pulmonary hemorrhage in infants continues. Consult the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for more information on pulmonary hemorrhage in infants.

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## How to Prevent Mold

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### Dry Quickly

**Dry items before mold grows, if possible. In most cases, mold will not grow if wet or damp items are dried within 24-48 hours.**

To dry **carpet and backing** within 48 hours, remove water with a wet vacuum, pull the carpet and pad off the floor, and dry them using a fan to blow air over them. A dehumidifier can be used to reduce the humidity in the room where the carpet and backing are drying, while fans can be used to accelerate the drying process.

Water can be removed from **concrete or cinder block** surfaces with a water-extraction vacuum. The drying also can be accelerated by using dehumidifiers, fans, and heaters.

**Hard surface flooring (such as linoleum, ceramic tile, and vinyl)** should be vacuumed or damp wiped with [Moldstat](#), and allowed to dry. They should be scrubbed clean, if necessary. If the under-flooring is wet, it should be dried using a vacuum or by exposing it to the air.

**Non-porous, hard surfaces such as plastics and metals** should be vacuumed or damp wiped with water and [Moldstat](#), then allowed to dry. Scrubbing may be necessary to thoroughly clean the surfaces.

Water should be removed from **upholstered furniture** with a water-extraction vacuum. Fans, dehumidifiers, and heaters may be used to accelerate the drying process. Completely drying upholstered furniture within 48 hours may be difficult, so if the piece is valuable, you may consider consulting a restoration or water-damage professional who specializes in furniture.

**Drywall, also known as gypsum board or gypsum wallboard**, may be dried in place if there is no obvious swelling and the seams are intact. Otherwise, removal is necessary. The wall cavity is the most difficult area to dry, and it should be ventilated if drywall is left to dry in place. (Drywall is not made out of boards of wood; traditionally, drywall is made of the mineral gypsum with a layer of heavy paper on the outside and inside. Commercial gypsum boards and drywall are also available with a variety of outside layers and coatings. According to the U. S. Geological Survey, a typical new home contains more than 7 metric tons of gypsum.)

To clean water-damaged **window drapes**, follow the manufacturer's laundering or cleaning instructions.

To clean **wooden surfaces**, remove moisture immediately and use dehumidifiers, fans, and gentle heat to dry them. (Be very careful when applying heat to hardwood floors.) **Treated or finished wood surfaces** can be cleaned with mild detergent and

clean water, then allowed to dry. Wet **paneling** should be pried from the wall for drying.

Some water-damaged items, including ceiling tiles, cellulose and fiberglass insulation, drywall and gypsum board, and books and papers, may have to be discarded. If valuable or important books, documents, or other items are moldy or water damaged, you may wish to consult a restoration, water damage, or remediation expert.

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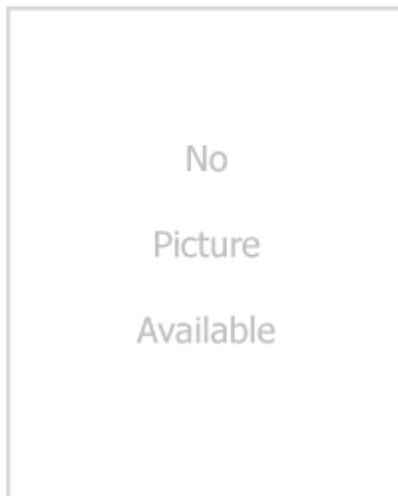
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Now In: [Flood Cleaning](#) → Mold Remediation After Water, Flood, or Storm Damaged Areas[previous](#) | [up](#) | [next](#)**Mold Remediation After Water, Flood, or Storm Damaged Areas** [E-mail this product to a friend](#)**Dry Quickly**

Remove Unsalvagable Material

Spray [Moldstat](#):

**Dry items before mold grows, if possible. In most cases, mold will not grow if wet or damp items are dried within 24-48 hours.**

To dry **carpet and backing** within 48 hours, remove water with a wet vacuum, pull the carpet and pad off the floor, and dry them using a fan to blow air over them. A dehumidifier can be used to reduce the humidity in the room where the carpet and backing are drying, while fans can be used to accelerate the drying process.

Spray [Moldstat](#): In all in all areas, to avoid any mold growth.

Water can be removed from **concrete or cinder block** surfaces with a water-extraction vacuum. The drying also can be accelerated by using dehumidifiers, fans, and heaters.

**Hard surface flooring (such as linoleum, ceramic tile, and vinyl)** should be vacuumed or damp wiped with a

[Moldstat](#): and allowed to dry. They should be scrubbed clean, if necessary. If the under-flooring is wet, it should be dried using a vacuum or by exposing it to the air.

**Non-porous, hard surfaces such as plastics and metals** should be vacuumed or damp wiped [Moldstat](#): , then allowed to dry. Scrubbing may be necessary to thoroughly clean the surfaces.

Water should be removed from **upholstered furniture** with a water-extraction vacuum. Fans, dehumidifiers, and heaters may be used to accelerate the drying process. Completely drying upholstered furniture within 48 hours may be difficult, so if the piece is valuable, you may consider consulting a restoration or water-damage professional who specializes in furniture.

**Drywall, also known as gypsum board or gypsum wallboard**, may be dried in place if there is no obvious swelling and the seams are intact. Otherwise, removal is necessary. The wall cavity is the most difficult area to dry, and it should be ventilated if drywall is left to dry in place. (Drywall is not made out of boards of wood; traditionally, drywall is made of the mineral gypsum with a layer of heavy paper on the outside and inside. Commercial gypsum boards and drywall are also available with a variety of outside layers and coatings. According to the U. S. Geological Survey, a typical new home contains more than 7 metric tons of gypsum.)

To clean water-damaged **window drapes**, follow the manufacturer's laundering or cleaning instructions.

To clean **wooden surfaces**, remove moisture immediately and use dehumidifiers, fans, and gentle heat to dry them. (Be very careful when applying heat to hardwood floors.) **Treated or finished wood surfaces** can be cleaned with [Moldstat](#), then allowed to dry. Wet **paneling** should be pried from the wall for drying.

Some water-damaged items, including ceiling tiles, cellulose and fiberglass insulation, drywall and gypsum board, and books and papers, may have to be discarded. If valuable or important books, documents, or other items are moldy or water damaged, you may wish to consult a restoration, water damage, or remediation expert.

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**Flood Cleaning Chart**

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Table 1: Water Damage - Cleanup and Mold Prevention	
Guidelines for Response to Clean Water Damage within 24-48 Hours to Prevent Mold Growth*	
Water-Damaged Material†	Actions
<b>Books and papers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For non-valuable items, discard books and papers.</li> <li>• Photocopy valuable/important items, discard originals.</li> <li>• Freeze (in frost-free freezer or meat locker) or freeze-dry.</li> </ul>
<b>Carpet and backing - dry within 24-48 hours§</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove water with water extraction vacuum.</li> <li>• Reduce ambient humidity levels with dehumidifier.</li> <li>• Accelerate drying process with fans.</li> </ul>
<b>Ceiling tiles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discard and replace.</li> </ul>
<b>Cellulose insulation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discard and replace.</li> </ul>
<b>Concrete or cinder block surfaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove water with water extraction vacuum.</li> <li>• Accelerate drying process with dehumidifiers, fans, and/or heaters.</li> </ul>
<b>Fiberglass insulation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discard and replace.</li> </ul>
<b>Hard surface, porous floorings§</b> (Linoleum, ceramic tile, vinyl)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacuum or damp wipe with water and mild detergent and allow to dry; scrub if necessary.</li> <li>• Check to make sure underflooring is dry; dry underflooring if necessary.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Non-porous, hard surfaces</b> (Plastics, metals)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacuum or damp wipe with water and mild detergent and allow to dry; scrub if necessary.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Upholstered furniture</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove water with water extraction vacuum.</li> <li>• Accelerate drying process with dehumidifiers, fans, and/or heaters.</li> <li>• May be difficult to completely dry within 48 hours. If the piece is valuable, you may wish to consult a restoration/water damage professional who specializes in furniture.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wallboard</b> (Drywall and gypsum board)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be dried in place if there is no obvious swelling and the seams are intact. If not, remove, discard, and replace.</li> <li>• Ventilate the wall cavity, if possible.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Window drapes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow laundering or cleaning instructions recommended by the manufacturer.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wood surfaces</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove moisture immediately and use dehumidifiers, gentle heat, and fans for drying. (Use caution when applying heat to hardwood floors.)</li> <li>• Treated or finished wood surfaces may be cleaned with mild detergent and clean water and allowed to dry.</li> <li>• Wet paneling should be pried away from wall for drying.</li> </ul>

Photo: Kelly Drake  
 Chart: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

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## What Is Mold

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Molds are organisms that may be found indoors and outdoors. They are part of the natural environment and play an important role in the environment by breaking down and digesting organic material, such as dead leaves. Also called fungi or mildew, molds are neither plants nor animals; they are part of the kingdom Fungi.

Molds can multiply by producing microscopic spores (2 - 100 microns [µm] in diameter), similar to the seeds produced by plants. Many spores are so small they easily float through the air and can be carried for great distances by even the gentlest breezes. The number of mold spores suspended in indoor and outdoor air fluctuates from season to season, day to day, and even hour to hour.

Mold spores are ubiquitous; they are found both indoors and outdoors. Mold spores cannot be eliminated from indoor environments. Some mold spores will be found floating through the air and in settled dust; however, they will not grow if moisture is not present.

Mold is not usually a problem indoors—unless mold spores land on a wet or damp spot and begin growing. As molds grow they digest whatever they are growing on. Unchecked mold growth can damage buildings and furnishings; molds can rot wood, damage drywall, and eventually cause structural damage to buildings. Mold can cause cosmetic damage, such as stains, to furnishings. The potential human health effects of mold are also a concern. It is important, therefore, to prevent mold from growing indoors

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## How does mold Grow

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### What Mold Needs to Grow

To grow indoors, mold needs moisture and food. Moisture is the most important factor influencing mold growth indoors. Controlling indoor moisture helps limit mold growth.

#### Moisture control is the key to mold control.

Mold does not need a lot of water to grow. A little condensation, in a bathroom or around a window sill, for example, can be enough. Common sites for indoor mold growth include bathroom tile and grout, basement walls, and areas around windows, near leaky water fountains, and around sinks. Common sources of water or moisture include roof leaks, condensation due to high humidity or cold spots in a building, slow leaks in plumbing fixtures, humidification systems, sprinkler systems, and floods.\*

Besides moisture, mold needs nutrients, or food, to grow. Mold can grow on virtually any organic substance. Most buildings are full of organic materials that mold can use as food, including paper, cloth, wood, plant material, and even soil. In most cases, temperature is not an issue; some molds grow in warm areas, while others prefer cool locations such as bread stored in a refrigerator. Often, more than one type of mold can be found growing in the same area, although conditions such as moisture, light, and temperature may favor one species of mold over another.

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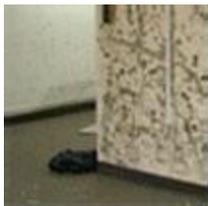
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## Assess Your Mold Problem

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Before planning a remediation effort, the size and extent of the mold problem and any continuing moisture problems should be assessed. Remediations generally can be divided into small (less than 10 square feet of mold), medium (10-100 square feet of mold), and large jobs (more than 100 square feet of mold). A remediation manager should be selected for medium or large jobs. You may choose to involve an experienced health and safety professional in remediation projects, particularly on large or complex jobs.

Questions to consider before starting remediation include:

- Are there existing moisture problems in the building?
- Have building materials been wet more than 48 hours?
- Are there hidden sources of water, or is the humidity high enough to cause condensation?
- Are the building occupants reporting musty or moldy odors?
- Are the building occupants reporting health problems?
- Are building materials or furnishings visibly damaged?
- Has maintenance been delayed or has the maintenance plan been altered?
- Has the building been remodeled recently, or has its use changed?
- Are consultations with health professionals indicated?

Remediating mold and moisture problems may be complex, and it may increase workers' exposure to mold unless personal protective equipment (PPE) is used.

Mold on gypsum wallboard.  
(photo, Terry Brennan)

## Avoid Mold Exposure

- Do not touch mold or moldy items with your bare hands.
- Do not get mold or mold spores in your eyes.
- Avoid breathing in mold or mold spores.
- Consider using PPE if disturbing mold during a building inspection, assessment, or walkthrough, for example. The minimum PPE is an N-95 respirator (available at most hardware stores), gloves, and goggles
- Review guidelines for using containment and PPE before starting remediation.
- Remediation workers, especially if they have health concerns, may want to check with their doctors before working on a mold investigation or remediation project. Anyone who has any doubts or questions should consult a healthcare professional before beginning work on a remediation project

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## Finding Mold

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Basement apartment (3-4 feet below ground) with mold on painted gypsum board, baseboard, and carpet. (photo, Terry Brennan)

Mold can grow in wet or damp spots in a building, or where humidity is high. Therefore, it is important to look for indoor areas where moisture is a concern. A Large number of factors that may contribute to indoor humidity and moisture problems. Reports of any of these problems should be investigated. If there has been a leaking pipe in the basement, for example, items such as carpets, paneling, and drywall there should be checked for water damage or mold growth. It is important to dry items quickly to prevent mold growth; in most cases, items dried within 24-48 hours will not become moldy.

### Carpet

Carpet backing or padding must be dried in addition to the carpet or mold will likely result.

Look for mold in wet or damp places and in places that smell moldy or musty. Indoor mold growth should be cleaned up. Remember that mold comes in many colors, not just black.

### Hidden Mold Growth

In some cases, indoor mold growth may not be obvious. Mold does not need light to grow: it can grow in dark areas and on hidden surfaces, such as the backside of drywall, wallpaper, and paneling; the top side of ceiling tiles; and the underside of carpets and pads. Possible locations of hidden mold also include damp areas behind walls and in crawlspaces, inside pipe chases and utility tunnels (areas in walls where water and other pipes are run), on acoustic liners in ventilation ducts, and on roof materials above ceiling tiles.

Investigating hidden mold can be difficult and may require a professional with experience investigating water- and mold-damaged buildings. Specialized equipment such as borescopes and moisture meters, and in some cases special sampling techniques, may be helpful in locating and identifying hidden mold areas. Investigating hidden mold requires caution since disturbing moldy areas may spread mold throughout the building. Opening and closing air handlers, for example, can send high levels of dust and mold into the air. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is not always needed when looking for mold, but it should always be available. If mold might be released into the air, investigators should use PPE to reduce exposure.

### Homes

Areas that are always or often damp, such as bathrooms, laundry/utility rooms, and basements, are common locations for mold growth in homes. Regularly check areas that have been or are likely to get wet. If you hire a home inspector, building inspector, or other professional to locate a water or mold problem, make sure the professional has experience identifying

and locating mold and water problems. Check references and look for membership in professional organizations.

#### Commercial Buildings, Large Buildings, and Schools

A key step when looking for mold in a building is to determine whether there has been a water leak. Maintenance personnel are frequently among the first to know when moisture problems have occurred. In some cases, management or health and safety personnel will have been notified. Either way, touring the building with maintenance or other personnel involved with the water problem may be helpful.

If possible, crawl spaces should be included when examining the building. (A white, soluble fibrous material on the soil of the crawl space may be alkaline salts, not mold, indicating moisture has been a problem and suggesting that the area should be more extensively inspected.)

Moldy or musty odors should alert an investigator to the possible presence of mold. Complaints of past water problems or water leaks should be investigated to determine how much water was involved and how quickly it was removed.

The building's air-handling system should be inspected to determine whether it is moldy. Moisture may collect in the ventilation system due to poor condensate pan drainage, poor roof drainage, or high humidity in the ventilation ducts. In some cases, water may enter the ventilation ducts from a leaky pipe. A contaminated ventilation system may spread mold spores throughout the building and should be considered a high priority for investigation and repair. Ventilation system mold contamination should be mitigated as soon as possible in a manner that does not expose building occupants to dust and mold spores.

During the building survey, any moldy or damp odors should be noted because damp or musty odors suggest that water is or was present and mold growth is likely. Occupant complaints of odors and health problems also should be investigated.

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## How to Prevent Mold

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### Dry Quickly

**Dry items before mold grows, if possible. In most cases, mold will not grow if wet or damp items are dried within 24-48 hours.**

To dry **carpet and backing** within 48 hours, remove water with a wet vacuum, pull the carpet and pad off the floor, and dry them using a fan to blow air over them. A dehumidifier can be used to reduce the humidity in the room where the carpet and backing are drying, while fans can be used to accelerate the drying process.

Water can be removed from **concrete or cinder block** surfaces with a water-extraction vacuum. The drying also can be accelerated by using dehumidifiers, fans, and heaters.

**Hard surface flooring (such as linoleum, ceramic tile, and vinyl)** should be vacuumed or damp wiped with [Moldstat](#), and allowed to dry. They should be scrubbed clean, if necessary. If the under-flooring is wet, it should be dried using a vacuum or by exposing it to the air.

**Non-porous, hard surfaces such as plastics and metals** should be vacuumed or damp wiped with water and [Moldstat](#), then allowed to dry. Scrubbing may be necessary to thoroughly clean the surfaces.

Water should be removed from **upholstered furniture** with a water-extraction vacuum. Fans, dehumidifiers, and heaters may be used to accelerate the drying process. Completely drying upholstered furniture within 48 hours may be difficult, so if the piece is valuable, you may consider consulting a restoration or water-damage professional who specializes in furniture.

**Drywall, also known as gypsum board or gypsum wallboard**, may be dried in place if there is no obvious swelling and the seams are intact. Otherwise, removal is necessary. The wall cavity is the most difficult area to dry, and it should be ventilated if drywall is left to dry in place. (Drywall is not made out of boards of wood; traditionally, drywall is made of the mineral gypsum with a layer of heavy paper on the outside and inside. Commercial gypsum boards and drywall are also available with a variety of outside layers and coatings. According to the U. S. Geological Survey, a typical new home contains more than 7 metric tons of gypsum.)

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clean water, then allowed to dry. Wet **paneling** should be pried from the wall for drying.

Some water-damaged items, including ceiling tiles, cellulose and fiberglass insulation, drywall and gypsum board, and books and papers, may have to be discarded. If valuable or important books, documents, or other items are moldy or water damaged, you may wish to consult a restoration, water damage, or remediation expert.

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## Mold Health Affects

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### Health Effects and Symptoms Associated with Mold Exposure

When moisture problems occur and mold growth results, building occupants may begin to report odors and a variety of health problems, such as headaches, breathing difficulties, skin irritation, allergic reactions, and aggravation of asthma symptoms; all of these symptoms could potentially be associated with mold exposure.

All molds have the potential to cause health effects. Molds produce allergens, irritants, and in some cases, toxins that may cause reactions in humans. The types and severity of symptoms depend, in part, on the types of mold present, the extent of an individual's exposure, the ages of the individuals, and their existing sensitivities or allergies. Research on mold and health effects is ongoing. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive.

The health effects listed above are well documented in humans. Evidence for other health effects in humans is less substantial and is primarily based on case reports or occupational studies.

Specific reactions to mold growth can include the following:

- **Allergic Reactions**

Inhaling or touching mold or mold spores may cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals. Allergic reactions to mold are common - these reactions can be immediate or delayed. Allergic responses include hay fever-type symptoms, such as sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and skin rash (dermatitis). Mold spores and fragments can produce allergic reactions in sensitive individuals regardless of whether the mold is dead or alive. Repeated or single exposure to mold or mold spores may cause previously non-sensitive individuals to become sensitive. Repeated exposure has the potential to increase sensitivity.

- **Asthma**

Molds can trigger asthma attacks in persons who are allergic (sensitized) to molds. The irritants produced by molds may also worsen asthma in non-allergic (non-sensitized) people.

- **Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis**

Hypersensitivity pneumonitis may develop following either short-term (acute) or long-term (chronic) exposure to molds. The disease resembles bacterial pneumonia and is

uncommon.

- **Irritant Effects**

Mold exposure can cause irritation of the eyes, skin, nose, throat, and lungs, and sometimes can create a burning sensation in these areas.

- **Opportunistic Infections**

People with weakened immune systems (i.e., immune-compromised or immune-suppressed individuals) may be more vulnerable to infections by molds (as well as more vulnerable than healthy persons to mold toxins).

*Aspergillus fumigatus*, for example, has been known to infect the lungs of immune-compromised individuals. These individuals inhale the mold spores which then start growing in their lungs. *Trichoderma* has also been known to infect immune-compromised children.

Healthy individuals are usually not vulnerable to opportunistic infections from airborne mold exposure. However, molds can cause common skin diseases, such as athlete's foot, as well as other infections such as yeast infections.

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## How to Use the Fogging Machine

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- Wear protective clothing and Respirator, gloves, and goggles
- Protect the health of occupants and workers
- Mix Chemicals prior to pouring into the foggers' tank.
- Prepare Area
- Fogger will work in area 15' x 15' if area is large then that the area can be divided into smaller area to fit the foggers working area. Example 30' x 30' can be fog once on each side.
- Allow fogger to fog for 45 mins-1 hour.(one Full tank)

This procedure can be used to do in wall or sub surface by drilling a hole 3" round and placing the hose in it.

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**How to Use the Fogging Machine**

SKU:

Price: \$0.00

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