



FEMA

Fact sheet

Solutions to Mold Problems

Mold In Your Home?

You may have mold and/or mildew growing in your home if your home has water damage due to:

- Flooding
- Sewage back-up
- Plumbing or roof leaks
- A damp basement or crawl space
- Overflows from sinks or bathtub
- High humidity (steam cooking, dryer vents, humidifiers)

Mold and mildew will develop within 24-48 hours of water exposure. Even worse, it will continue to grow until steps are taken to eliminate the source of moisture and effectively deal with the mold problem.

Dry Out a Mold or Water Damaged House:

General: Turn off main power if wiring is wet or moldy. Have an electrician check the house's electrical system before turning power on again. Open the house to fresh air when the humidity is lower outside than inside. Use fans and dehumidifiers to remove moisture unless mold has already started to grow (fans may spread existing mold). Use the furnace only if the ducts have not been inundated (any forced air central heating ducts that have come in contact with water or mold should be professionally checked). Remove all wet items such as furniture, rugs, bedding and toys. Discard soaked or moldy carpeting. Clean and disinfect other items. Discard all food products that were not stored in a water tight container.

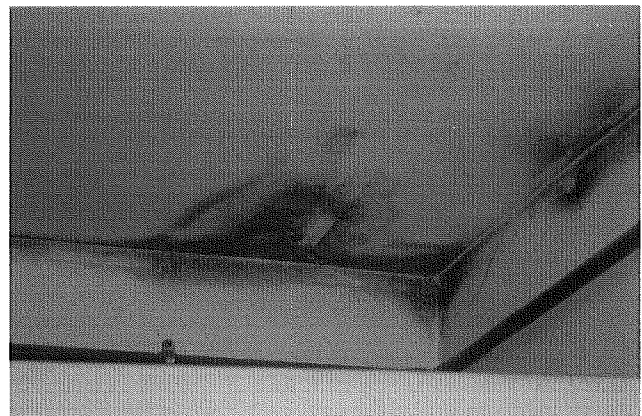
Interior walls and Ceilings:

Remove all wet or contaminated porous materials such as ceiling tiles, drywall and wood by-products. If wallboard

is soaked, remove to a foot above the watermark and discard. Drain walls by removing the baseboards and drilling holes near the floor. Dry panel-type walls by pulling the bottom edge out from the studs. Check the interior of the walls for hidden mold.

Floors and Exterior Walls:

Remove all wet insulation. Discard all but rigid insulation. Rigid insulation can be reinstalled after disinfecting and drying.



Hard Surfaces:

Wash items such as metal, glass, solid wood, plastic and other nonporous materials with a non-ammonia detergent and hot water. Use a stiff brush on rough surface materials such as concrete. Use a wet-dry shop vacuum to remove water and to clean items such as studs or exposed wood framing. Disinfect all cleaned surfaces with a bleach solution (1 ½ cups of bleach per gallon of water). Let the solution stay on the surface for at least 10 minutes before rinsing with clean water and allowing to dry.