



Stamp Out Mold in Your Home

Mold in your home can be destructive to your home, health and belongings. Controlling moisture in your home will reduce mold and the destruction it causes.

Mold can trigger irritations, allergies and asthma, especially in young children, elderly, pregnant women and people who are already sick. It can cause permanent and expensive damage to walls, window frames, carpets, clothes and furniture.

Mold grows on damp surfaces in your home. Mold spores are always present in the air and the right conditions allow them to grow. Mold growth can be black, brown or white and looks like a furry stain. Keeping your home clean and dry will prevent mold growth.

What you can do to

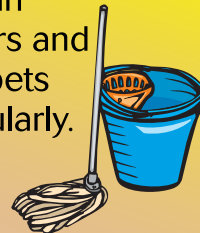
Stamp Out Mold

in your home:

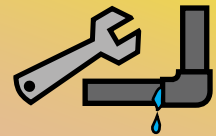
Scrub and dry signs of mold.



Clean floors and carpets regularly.



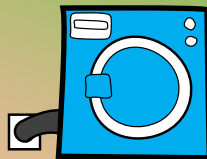
Repair leaks in pipes and windows.



Leave wet shoes and boots outside.



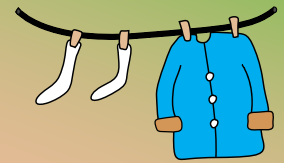
Vent dryer to outside.



Store firewood outside.



Dry clothes outside.



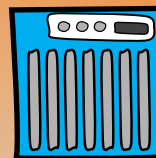
Run bathroom and kitchen fans.



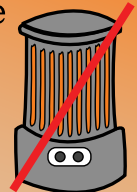
Keep heating vents open.



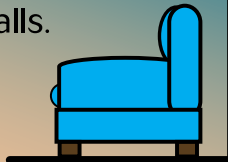
Use a dehumidifier.



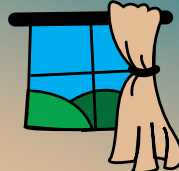
Do not use kerosene heaters inside.



Move furniture away from walls.



Open curtains during the day.



Allow airflow in closets.



Cover cooking pots.



Jeanne Brandt, Family and Community Development, Washington County, 2007.

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Resident's Guide to Surface Mold Clean Up

Safely Clean Up Small Mold Problems:

Safely clean up **small areas of surface mold** by following these steps. A small mold problem has 1-3 patches of mold and each patch is smaller than 10 square feet. Common places to find surface mold include bathroom ceilings, walls in a closet, window sills, or on walls behind furniture.

STEP 1: Protect yourself and others from exposure to mold spores while cleaning:

- ✓ Wear an *N95-rated face mask* to protect you from inhaling mold spores. Use *rubber gloves and eye protection*.
- ✓ *Ask family members or employees to leave areas while cleaning.*

STEP 2: Wash mold away with soapy water:

- ✓ **Scrub with dishwashing soap and warm water.** Wipe with a clean, damp rag and let it dry completely. If cleaning mold on drywall, do not allow the drywall to get too wet and wipe off water quickly.

Please note: For areas of mold larger than 3'x3', a thorough assessment is needed along with safety steps for removal and cleanup that are not included in this flyer. For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldcleanup.html>

Why Clean Up Mold?


Mold will grow in your house if you have a moisture problem. People with asthma and those that are immune compromised are particularly sensitive to mold. The level of concern depends on the amount of mold, how long it has been around and the health of the residents.

Symptoms of mold exposure may include:

- Hay fever like symptoms, sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, skin rash.
- Asthma attacks in people with asthma who are allergic to mold.
- Irritation to eyes, nose, skin, throat and lungs.

Good to know:

- **Don't use bleach.** Bleach kills mold, but does not remove the mold. It doesn't solve the problem - dead mold is as bad for you as live mold.
- **Mold testing is usually not necessary.** If you see or smell mold, you have mold. All mold should be treated the same way. Remove it safely without exposing people to lots of mold spores, and fix the source of the problem – whether it's a leak, or taking steps to prevent condensation.
- **Painting over a moldy surface does not take care of mold.** It just hides the problem. The mold must be removed.



**Keep mold from
coming back!**
**See backside for
prevention tips.**