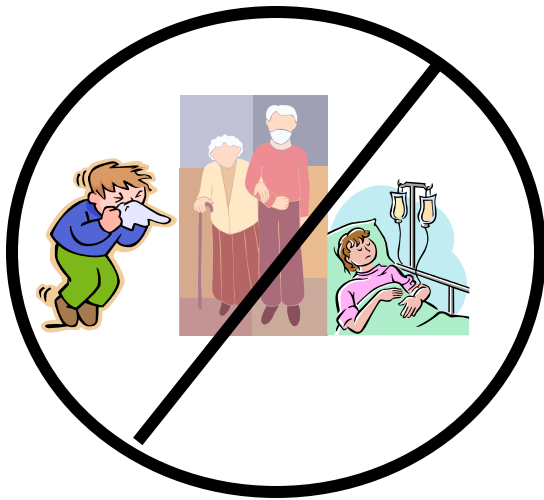


Fact Sheet on Cleaning up Mold after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Who should do the clean up?



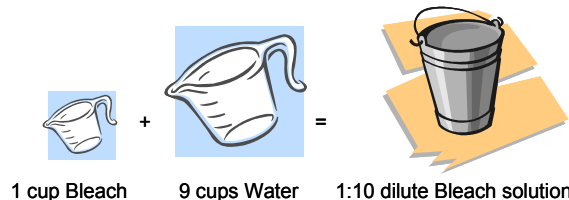
- Children, elderly, immuno-compromised, allergic, and asthmatic individuals should NOT be present in the building until cleaning or repair is finished.
- If your home has been flooded, presume it is contaminated with mold and/or sewage and could pose a health risk to those who enter.
- Extensive mold should be cleaned by trained professionals following the recommendations in EPA's Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings.



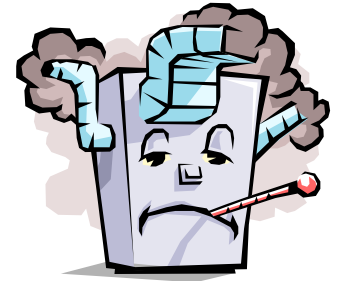
STEP 1: When You First Re-enter Your Home



- Protect yourself by wearing rubber boots, rubber gloves, an N95 particulate respirator, goggles and shower cap during cleanup.
- If the house has been closed up for several days, enter briefly to open doors and windows to let the house air out for at least 30 minutes.
- If you're going to do some cleaning, prepare a dilute bleach solution while outside. Stronger bleach is not necessary and can irritate eyes, nose, throat, and lungs. (Note: Never mix bleach with cleaning solutions that contain ammonia because toxic vapors could be produced.)



- If you suspect that the heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) system may be contaminated with mold, have the system serviced and cleaned before you turn it on.



Step 2: Collecting personal belongings



- Valuable possessions that cannot be thrown away should be taken outside for cleaning.
- Photos and documents: Do not attempt to separate them because you could damage the ink and pictures. Place in a Ziploc bag and freeze until you can call a professional restoration company.
- Antiques: Damp wipe hard surfaces with soapy water and thoroughly dry.
- Wedding gowns: Hang outside to dry, then seal in plastic bag until you can take it to a professional cleaner.
- Upholstered furniture: Throw away or have it professionally cleaned.

STEP 3: Remove All Moldy Materials

- **When in doubt, throw it out!**
- Carpets and padding, upholstery, wallpaper, drywall, floor and ceiling tiles, insulation, most clothing, leather, and paper cannot be cleaned quickly or easily. These items should be thrown away.



- Items in your refrigerator will be rotten and moldy. Do not open it to check. If it smells bad, simply tape it shut and take it to the sidewalk.



- Dead mold may cause allergic reactions in some people, so it is not enough to simply kill the mold; it must also be removed.

STEP 4: Dry out the building

- Use fans and dehumidifiers to remove excess moisture.

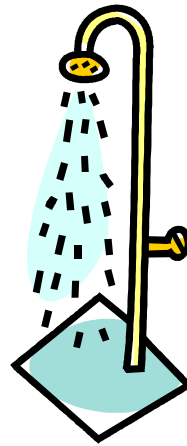
- Fans should be placed at a window or door to blow the air outside rather than inside, so as not to spread the mold.

STEP 5: Clean Moldy hard surfaces

- Damp wipe with a dilute bleach solution to remove mold growth from hard surfaces. For stubborn mold stains on concrete surfaces and wooden studs, scrub with a brush.
- Thoroughly dry before painting or installing new materials.

STEP 6: Shower and change clothes

- After retrieving valuable objects and/or cleaning and repair, you should shower and wash your hair to remove spores.
- Place your dirty clothes in a plastic bag and wash them in hot water separately from your regular laundry.
- These steps are very important to protecting your children and other individuals.



For more information, check out these reliable sources

Centers of Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/reenter.asp>

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/protect.asp>

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/cleanupwater.asp>

<http://www.cdc.gov/mold/>

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/cleanup.asp>

Environmental Protection Agency

http://www.epa.gov/mold/append_b.html

<http://www.epa.gov/mold/cleanupguidelines.html>

http://www.epa.gov/mold/mold_remediation.html

Federal Emergency Management Agency

<http://www.fema.gov/>