



Cleaning Mold and Mildew

After storms, floods, and hurricanes, mold and mildew spores may be present in large amounts. These spores may cause allergic reactions and damage homes and household goods. Extensive mold in your home is a significant concern -- almost everyone will be affected if enough spores are inhaled.

Some tips for effective cleaning of mold and mildew:

- Mold growth can be removed from hard surfaces with commercial products, soap and water, or a bleach solution of no more than 1 cup of household laundry bleach in 1 gallon of water. Follow the manufacturers' instructions for use (see product label).
- Clean, disinfect and dry all affected areas. Use a non-ammonia soap (ammonia plus bleach will result in toxic fumes) or detergent and hot water to scrub contaminated areas.
- Bag and dispose of materials with moldy residue, such as rags, paper, leaves and debris. Hard-surfaced materials can be kept once they are cleaned and disinfected.
- Use a stiff brush on masonry walls and similar surfaces. Rinse with clean water. After cleaning, apply a solution of one cup of household bleach per one gallon of water and allow it to dry. Ventilate the area well before, during and after entering work area.
- Turn off utilities.
- Wear a paper mask, coveralls, waterproof gloves and goggles while cleaning.
- Clean yourself with disinfectant soap when you are done.
- Call in a licensed contractor if wall interiors and sub-flooring areas seem to be the source of the fungal problems.
- If the area to be cleaned is more than 10 square feet, consult the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guide [Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings](#).

Adapted from Maryland Department of Health

https://health.maryland.gov/docs/FactSheet_Cleaning_Mold_Mildew_rev.pdf

and the Environmental Protection Agency Mold Cleanup Page <https://www.epa.gov/mold/mold-cleanup-your-home>

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