Mold grows from spores, which are found naturally in the air and cannot be seen by the naked eye. Mold spores act like seeds, causing mold to grow under the right conditions. Mold itself is usually easy to detect. While testing is sometimes used to determine the presence of mold, it is generally not necessary or recommended. Usually a quick investigation with your eyes and nose can tell you if mold is present. Some common signs of mold include:

- Visible mold growth. Mold can appear in a variety of textures and colors; it often appears as a discoloration, stain, or fuzzy growth.
- Mushy or earthy odor.
- Water damage and discoloration around an area.

Keep in mind that the first signs of mold might be the development of allergy-like symptoms. If you detect excess moisture or a musty odor, but do not see mold, be sure to check behind cabinets and wallpaper, and under carpeting. These are common hiding places for mold. Do a complete inspection of your home using the UGA Mold and Moisture Checklist, available online at [http://www.fcs.uga.edu/extension/home-publications](http://www.fcs.uga.edu/extension/home-publications).

The key to controlling mold is to eliminate the source of the moisture problem.

Mold Removal Steps

1. Fixing the Moisture Problem:
   - Mold cannot grow without moisture. Listed below are some common causes and solutions to many household moisture problems.
   - Roof and plumbing leaks should be repaired quickly.
   - Overflow from tubs, toilets, or sinks needs to be cleaned up and dried out quickly.
   - No exhaust fan in the kitchen or bathroom. Install and use exhaust fans vented to the outdoors when cooking and bathing.
   - Untreated clothes dryer. Check to make sure the dryer vent is connected and vents outside your home.
   - High humidity. The EPA suggests keeping indoor humidity below 60% relative humidity (RH); ideally between 30 and 50 percent. You can measure the RH using an inexpensive moisture or humidity meter usually available where hardware is sold.
   - Poorly ventilated closets. Remove at least one-third of the airflow in closets to help increase air circulation, and leave the closet door open or install a louvered door.
   - Poorly maintained, leaky and oversized air conditioning (A/C) systems. Only wet coils can result in mold in ductwork, oversized A/C units do not dehumidify adequately.

2. Drying Wet Materials:
   - This is very important when waterloss or flooding has occurred. Using large fans along with dehumidifiers speeds up the drying process and reduces the risk of mold growth. If not available, run A/C and heaters at the same time to lower the RH of the air. If something cannot be dried within 48 hours, it should be discarded (if not structural). Some items may be placed in the sun to dry, however, items made of wood or paper may warp in the sun. Wet fibrous or open cell foam insulation inside walls must be replaced, even if the interior wallboard appears to be dry.

3. Removing Mold from Your Home:
   - If you find mold growth on building materials in your home, you may be able to tackle the area yourself. Some general guidelines to determine if this could be a DIY mold removal project are listed below.
     - The area of mold growth is not extensive.
     - The mold growth was not caused by sewage or contaminated water.
     - You do not suspect that there is mold growth in the heating or cooling system of your house.
     - You do not have any respiratory concerns.

DIY Mold Removal Guide

When cleaning or coming into contact with moldy items, it is important to take protective measures in order to minimize mold exposure. For further information, please refer to the EPA publication, A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home or Rebuild Healthy Homes.

Step 1: Put on protective equipment.

These items can be found in most hardware stores. Follow the instructions provided with each item to ensure proper use, so they provide the highest level of protection. Before beginning mold treatment and clean up, you should have the following:

- Rubber gloves that extend to mid-forearm.
- Protective eyewear without vents.
- N-95 or higher rated respirator that fits properly.

Step 2: Seal off and ventilate the work area.

- Turn off any central air or heating systems in your home to reduce the spread of mold spores.
- Put plastic coverings over doorways and air vents.
- Open windows in the work area and place a fan in one window blowing to outdoors to pull spores outside.

Step 3: Remove and dispose of moldy porous items; clean and dry spillage materials.

- Discard items contaminated with mold in sealed plastic bags.
- Items that are too large to be placed in a plastic bag should be wrapped with 6mil plastic and sealed with tape.
- The removal and cleaning process disturbs and can release mold spores from surfaces, so after completing the cleaning process, be sure to ventilate the area well.
- Open windows and use fans to pull airborne mold spores outdoors.
- After cleaning, try to get everything dry within 48 hours. Close windows and use dehumidifiers and fans to drop relative humidity to 30-50% to speed the drying process.
- If dehumidifiers are not available, use air conditioning and portable electric heaters at the same time.
- Clean the area again.
- Quickly dry wet areas with fans and dehumidifiers.
- Check the area with a calibrated moisture meter.

Step 4: Check for Regrowth

Regularly check the areas that you have cleaned or removed for mold growth, which can form again in 2-3 days. If mold reappears, it means that the moisture problem has not been properly taken care of. If this occurs you should:

- Clean the area again.
- Put plastic coverings over doorways and air vents.
- Check the area with a calibrated moisture meter.
- Do not replace insulation and wallboard until wood framing is properly taken care of. If this occurs you should:
- Maintain a green and temperature controlled home.
- For more information on rebuilding after a disaster, download the HUD Rebuild Healthy Homes Book or App.
Mold grows from spores, which are found naturally in the air and cannot be seen by the naked eye. Mold spores act like seeds, causing mold to grow under the right conditions. Mold itself is usually easy to detect. While testing is sometimes used to determine the presence of mold, it is generally not necessary or recommended. Usually a quick investigation with your eyes and nose can tell if mold is present. Some common signs of mold include:

- Visible mold growth
- Mold can appear in a variety of textures and colors; it often appears as a discoloration, stain, or fuzzy growth.
- Musty or earthy odor.
- Water damage and discoloration around an area.
- Health problems and complaints when in the home or when the air is sampled.

Keep in mind that the first signs of mold might be the development of allergy-like symptoms. If you detect excess moisture or a musty odor, but do not see mold, be sure to check behind cabinets and wallpaper, and under carpeting. These are common hiding places for mold. Do a complete inspection of your home using the UGA Mold and Moisture Checklist, available online at http://www.fcs.uga.edu/extension/home-publications.

The key to controlling mold is to eliminate the source of the moisture problem.

**Mold Removal Steps**

1. **Fixing the Moisture Problem:**
   - Mold cannot grow without moisture. Listed below are some common causes and solutions to many household moisture problems.
     - No exhaust fan in the kitchen or bathroom. Install and use exhaust fans vented to the outdoors when cooking and bathing.
     - Unvented clothes dryer. Check to make sure the dryer vent is connected and vents outside your home.
     - High humidity. The EPA suggests keeping indoor humidity below 60% relative humidity (RH), usually between 30 and 50 percent. You can measure the RH using an inexpensive moisture or humidity meter usually available where hardware is sold.
     - Poorly ventilated closets. Remove at least one-third of the clutter in closets to help increase air circulation, and leave the closet door open or install a lowered door.
     - Poorly maintained, leaky and oversized air conditioning (A/C) systems. Only wet coil systems can result in mold in ductwork, oversized A/C units do not dehumidify adequately.

2. **Drying Wet Materials:**
   - This is very important when overwatering or flooding has occurred. Using large fans along with dehumidifiers speeds up the drying process and reduces the risk of mold growth. If not available, run A/C and heaters at the same time to lower the RH of the air. If something cannot be dried within 48 hours, it should be discarded (if not structural). Some items may be placed in the sun to dry; however, items made of wood or paper may warp in the sun. Wet fibers or open cell foam insulation inside walls must be replaced, even if the interior wallboard does not show signs of mold.
   - Wet porous areas like wallpaper, cabinets, floors or ceilings must be dried within 48 hours.
   - The mold growth was not caused by sewage or contaminated water.
   - You do not have any respiratory concerns.

3. **Removing Mold from Your Home:**
   - If you find mold growth on building materials in your home, you may be able to tackle the area yourself. Some general guidelines to determine if this could be a DIY mold removal project are listed below.
     - The area of mold growth is not extensive.
     - The mold growth was not caused by sewage or contaminated water.
     - You do not suspect that there is mold growth in the heating or cooling system of your house.
     - You do not have any respiratory concerns.

**DIY Mold Removal Guide**

When cleaning or coming into contact with moldy items, it is important to take protective measures in order to minimize mold exposure. For further information, please refer to the EPA publication, A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home or Rebuild Healthy Homes.

**Step 1:** Put on protective equipment.

These items can be found in most hardware stores. Follow the instructions provided with each item to ensure proper use, so they provide the highest level of protection. Before beginning mold treatment and clean up, you should have the following:

- Rubber gloves that extend to mid-forearm.
- Protective eyewear without vents.
- N-95 or higher rated respirator that fits properly.

**Step 2:** Seal off and ventilate the work area.

- Turn off any central air or heating systems in your home to reduce the spread of mold spores.
- Put plastic coverings over doorways and air vents.
- Open windows in the work area and place a fan in one window blowing to outdoors to pull spores outside.

**Step 3:** Remove and dispose of moldy porous items; clean and speed dry salvageable materials.

- Discard items contaminated with mold in sealed plastic bags.
- Items that are too large to be placed in a plastic bag should be wrapped with 6mil plastic and sealed with tape.
- The removal and cleaning process disturbs and can release mold spores from surfaces, so after completing the cleaning process, be sure to ventilate the area well.
- Open windows and use fans to pull airborne mold spores outdoors.
- After cleaning, try to get everything dry within 48 hours. Close windows and use dehumidifiers and fans to drop relative humidity to 30-50% to speed the drying process. If dehumidifiers are not available, use air conditioning and portable electric heaters at the same time.

**Step 4:** Check for Regrowth

Regularly check the areas that you have cleaned or removed for mold growth, which can form again in 2-3 days. If mold reappears, it means that the moisture problem has not been properly taken care of. If this occurs you should:

- Clean the area again.
- Quickly dry wet areas with fans and dehumidifiers.
- Check the area with a calibrated moisture meter.
- Do not replace insulation and wallboard until wood framing material should be removed and you may want to contact a professional water damage or mold restoration firm to remediate the problem.

**Ways to keep your home healthy**

- Dry
- Pest-free
- Clean
- Contaminant-free
- Safe
- Ventilated
- Maintained
- Green and temperature controlled

For more information on rebuilding after a disaster, download the HUD Rebuild Healthy Homes Book or App.

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/

Post-Disaster-Resources
Moisture problems.

Mold cannot grow without moisture. Listed below are some common causes and solutions to many household moisture problems.

1. Fixing the Moisture Problem

- Roof and plumbing leaks should be repaired quickly.
- Water damage and discoloration around an area.
- Musty or earthy odor.
- Visible mold growth. Mold can appear in a variety of textures and colors; it often appears as a discoloration, stain, or fuzzy growth.

2. Drying Wet Materials:

This is very important when overseep or flooding has occurred. Using large fans along with dehumidifiers speeds up the drying process and reduces the risk of mold growing. If not available, run A/C and heaters at the same time to lower the RH of the air. If something cannot be dried within 48 hours, it should be discarded (if not structurally). Some items may be placed in the sun to dry; however, items made of wood or paper may warp in the sun. Wet fabrics or open cell foam insulation inside walls must be replaced, even if the interior wallboard appears to be dry.

3. Removing Mold from Your Home:

- The area of mold growth is not extensive.
- The mold growth was not caused by sewage or contaminated water.
- You do not suspect that there is mold growth in the heating or cooling system of your house.
- You do not have any respiratory concerns.

DIY Mold Removal Guide

When cleaning or coming into contact with moldy items, it is important to take protective measures in order to minimize mold exposure. For further information, please refer to the EPA publication, A Brief Guide to Mold: Moisture and Your Home or Rebuild Healthy Homes.

Step 1: Put on protective equipment.

- No exhaust fan in the kitchen or bathroom. Install and use exhaust fans vented to the outdoors when cooking and bathing.
- Unvented clothes dryer. Check to make sure the dryer vent is connected and vents outside your home.
- High humidity. The EPA suggests keeping indoor humidity below 60% relative humidity (RH); ideally between 30 and 50 percent. You can measure the RH using an inexpensive moisture or humidity meter usually available where hardware is sold.
- Poorly ventilated closets. Remove at least one-third of the clutter in closets to help increase air circulation, and leave the closet door open or install a louvered door.
- Poorly maintained, leaky and oversized air conditioning (A/C) systems. Only wet coils can result in mold in ductwork; oversized A/C units do not dehumidify adequately.

Before beginning mold treatment and clean up, you should have on the following:

- Protective eyewear without vents.
- N-95 or higher rated respirator that fits properly.
- Rubber gloves that extend to mid-forearm.
- Protective eyewear without vents.
- N-95 or higher rated respirator that fits properly.

Step 2: Seal off and ventilate the work area.

- Turn off any central air or heating systems in your home to reduce the spread of mold spores.
- Put plastic coverings over doorways and air vents.
- Open windows in the work area and place a fan in one window blowing to outdoors to pull spores outside.

Step 3: Remove and dispose of moldy porous items; clean and dry moldy salvageable items.

- Discard items contaminated with mold in sealed plastic bags.
- Items that are too large to be placed in a plastic bag should be treated with bleach and sealed with tape.
- The removal and cleaning process disturbs and can release mold spores from surfaces, so after completing the cleaning process, be sure to ventilate the area well.
- Open windows and use fans to pull airborne mold spores outdoors.
- After cleaning, try to get everything dry within 48 hours. Close windows and use dehumidifiers and fans to drop relative humidity to 30-50% to speed the drying process. If dehumidifiers are not available, use air conditioning and portable electric heaters at the same time.

Step 4: Check for Regrowth

Regularly check the areas that you have cleaned or removed for mold growth, which can form again in 2-3 days. If mold reappears, it means that the moisture problem has not been properly taken care of. If this occurs you should:

- Clean the area again.
- Quickly dry wet areas with fans and dehumidifiers.
- Check the area with a calibrated moisture meter.
- Do not replace insulation and wallboard until wood framing moisture content is 15% or lower. If the problem persists, the material should be removed and you may want to contact a professional water damage or mold restoration firm to remediate the problem.
Preventing mold

1. Fix the moisture problem.
2. Dry the area.
3. Remove the mold with a damp cloth and a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent.

Removing mold

1. Use the UGA Extension Mold & Moisture Home Inspection Checklist (Mold Quick Facts).
2. Remove the mold with a damp cloth and a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent.
3. Dry the area.
4. Close the door on mold.

Mold can be removed from most items if you act quickly, clean the item and dry it quickly. If an item is expensive or has some sentimental value, you may want to contact your insurance company to discuss how the company will handle their claims. Be sure to circulate the air. Disinfectants can kill mold, but drying thoroughly is key to preventing new growth.

How to Clean Specific Items

Clothing and Fabrics

- Can cause permanent staining if not removed in time. If yellowing is present after cleaning, you may be able to clean it.

Carpets

- Can be treated with a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent. Allow carpets to dry. Depending on the severity of the mold, the solution may need to be repeated. Do not use bleach on carpets.

Hardwood floors: Vinyl, Linoleum, Tile, Ceramic, Laminate, Wood

- May be cleanable unless the flooring is catwalk. If tile seems to be a catwalk, replace it with a new one. Use a water extraction vacuum to dry wet carpet. Disinfect using a bleach and water solution. Dry thoroughly. If the tile has water in it, the area may need to be removed and discarded.

Upholstered Furniture and Mattresses

- Can be treated with a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent. Allow the item to dry thoroughly. If the surface could be damaged, then use a milder disinfectant, such as hydrogen peroxide. Do not use bleach on or near the air conditioning system.

Leather Clothing and Furniture

- Can be treated with a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent. Allow leather to dry thoroughly. If the surface could be damaged, then use a milder disinfectant, such as hydrogen peroxide. Do not use bleach on or near the air conditioning system.

Sources:
- Dr. Claudette Hanks Reichel, Professor and Extension Housing Specialist, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.
- Dr. Sarah Kirby, Professor and Department Extension Leader, North Carolina State University Agricultural Center.
- Dr. Pamela R. Turner, P.E., Associate Professor and Extension Housing Specialist, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS. Published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, under the supervision of the Cooperative Extension Service. This publication is a major revision of "Mold: The uninvited guest, removing mold in your home" by Jorge H. Atiles.

This publication is a major revision of "Mold: The uninvited guest, removing mold in your home" by Jorge H. Atiles. Circular 1047-2 Revised January 2018 Published by the University of Georgia in cooperation with Fort Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and counties of the State. For more information, contact your local UGA Cooperative Extension office. The University of Georgia is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.
Mold can be removed from most items if you act quickly, clean the item and dry it dry quickly. If an item is expensive or has sentimental value, you may want to take the item to a professional for cleaning. This includes a wide range of clothing and fabrics, rug and carpet cleaning, furniture repair, and textile and art restoration. Look for specialists who are affiliated with professional organizations.

### How to Clean Specific Items

**Clothing and Fabrics**

Mold can cause permanent damage to some items.

- **For washable items, pretreat stains with a non-ammonia detergent.** Wash at the hottest temperature with detergent and appropriate bleach (oxygen based) as indicated by the label. If the item has sentimental value or was in contact with clean contaminated water, then the item should be disinfected using the solution above; and then reupholstered if the item has sentimental value or was in contact with contaminated water. Accelerate the drying process of the item using a dehumidifier or other methods to circulate the air. Disinfectants can kill mold, but drying thoroughly is key to preventing new growth.

**Cleaning Process**

1. **For washable items,** pretreat stains with a non-ammonia detergent. Wash at the hottest temperature with detergent and appropriate bleach (oxygen based) as indicated by the label. If the item has sentimental value or was in contact with clean contaminated water, then the item should be disinfected using the solution above; and then reupholstered if the item has sentimental value or was in contact with contaminated water. Accelerate the drying process of the item using a dehumidifier or other methods to circulate the air. Disinfectants can kill mold, but drying thoroughly is key to preventing new growth.

**Carpeting, Rugs and Padding**

Mold may be sucked into air vents and then distributed throughout the building, especially during winter months when the air is circulated through the duct system. Use a water extraction vacuum to dry wet carpeting. Replace and restore damaged padding. Absorb the drying process by using fans and dehumidifiers, a conditioning system that removes moisture from the air, professional or do it yourself vapor barrier mats under areas of carpet. Use cleaning products that are free of bleach. To prevent mold from forming again, keep the area clean and dry.

- **Surface mold on hard flooring may be vacuumed with a HEPA filter and vacuum cleaner.** Use a water extraction vacuum to dry wet carpeting. Replace and restore damaged padding. Absorb the drying process by using fans and dehumidifiers, a conditioning system that removes moisture from the air, professional or do it yourself vapor barrier mats under areas of carpet. Use cleaning products that are free of bleach. To prevent mold from forming again, keep the area clean and dry.

**Upholstered Furniture and Mattresses**

Mold may be sucked into air vents and then distributed throughout the building, especially during winter months when the air is circulated through the duct system. Use a water extraction vacuum to dry wet carpeting. Replace and restore damaged padding. Absorb the drying process by using fans and dehumidifiers, a conditioning system that removes moisture from the air, professional or do it yourself vapor barrier mats under areas of carpet. Use cleaning products that are free of bleach. To prevent mold from forming again, keep the area clean and dry.

**Leather Clothing and Furniture**

- **Cleaning leather items,** follow these basic steps:
  1. Remove all water from a damp rag and soak of water and non-porous leather. If the leather was caused by sewage water, disinfect using a bleach and water solution. Discard the item; or the item may be dried in a low-temperature oven (max 100°F or 40°C) but may be damaged. Sometimes the leather can be replaced. If the item has sentimental value or was in contact with clean contaminated water, then the item should be disinfected using the solution above; and then reupholstered if the item has sentimental value or was in contact with contaminated water. Accelerate the drying process of the item using a dehumidifier or other methods to circulate the air. Disinfectants can kill mold, but drying thoroughly is key to preventing new growth.

**Sources:**


**Reviewers:**

- Dr. Sarah Kirby, Professor and Department Extension Leader, North Carolina State University.
- Dr. Claudette Hanks Reichel, Professor and Extension Housing Specialist, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.
- Mr. Lance T. Smith, Tucker County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia.

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- Pamela R. Turner, P.R., D.Sc. Associate Professor and Extension Housing Specialist
- Monica Batchett, MPH, BHS, Armstrong State University
- Jackie E. Ogden, Chatham County FACS Extension Agent

** extension.uga.edu georgiahealthyhousing.org**

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How to Clean Specific Items

Mold can be removed from most items if you act quickly, clean the item and dry it quickly. If an item is expensive or has sentimental value you may want to consult with a specialist. This includes companies that work with expensive or has sentimental value you may want to consult with a specialist. This includes companies that work

Household Item | Impacts of Mold | Cleaning Process
--- | --- | ---
Clothing and Fabrics | Mold can cause permeable fibers to become rigid | For washable items, pretreat stains with a non-chlorine bleach detergent. Hand or machine wash and dry the item on the hottest safety setting. Process by using fans and dehumidifiers. As an alternative, use a professional or non-toxic product that is safe to use on the item. Repeat as many times as needed to remove mold and to prevent new growth. Before cleaning, verify that any moisture is safe to dry. Clean with a solution of water and mild detergent. Damage caused by sewage water should be disinfected using a bleach and water solution.

Carpeting, Rugs and Padding | Most can be salvaged by removing water and mold | Use a water extraction vacuum to dry wet carpeting. Remove and replace saturated underlayment. Accelerate the drying process by using fans and dehumidifiers, an air conditioning or heat pump. Professional or non-toxic products that are safe to use on the item. Use a non-washable item.

Hardwood Floors | Some can be salvaged by removing water and mold | If the floor shows minimal mold growth, you may be able to clean it. Remove any saturated underlayment, damp mop and solution of water and non-phosphate detergent. Quick-drying or disinfecting cleaning may be needed before requiring to prevent water stains from showing through.

Vinyl, Linoleum, Tile, Ceramic, Laminated Wood | May be salvaged until water remains under the flooring where it can be absorbed | Use a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent. Scrub or strip floor finish, if necessary. Dry quickly. A stainblocker coating may be needed before repainting them. Wear protective clothing and clean with a damp cloth and use a solution of water and mild detergent. Scrub or strip finish, if necessary. Dry quickly. A stainblocker coating may be needed before repainting them. Wear protective clothing and clean with a damp cloth and use a solution of water and mild detergent.

Ceiling Tiles | Seldom salvageable if damaged by water and mold | If the tiles are not salvageable, then you can use a non-toxic solution to clean and disinfect them. Damage caused by sewage water should be disinfected using a bleach and water solution.

Drywall and other Wallboards | Must not be used in any building if not salvaged or if the water damage is evident | Remove used with a damp rag and solution of water and non-phosphate detergent. If the damage was caused by sewage water, disinfect using a bleach and water solution. Dry thoroughly in a well-ventilated location, but not in direct sunlight, which may cause it to warp.

Furniture - Hard-surfaced (wood, laminate, veneer, bamboo, steel, resin, etc.) | Cleanable, but some items may be damaged | Remove used with a damp rag and solution of water and non-phosphate detergent. If the damage was caused by sewage water, disinfect using a bleach and water solution. Dry thoroughly in a well-ventilated location, but not in direct sunlight, which may cause it to warp.

Upholstered Furniture and Mattresses | Some can be salvaged by removing water and mold | If the item had a saturated cover, it was in contact with water for more than a few hours, or may be able to return it. Upholstered furniture can be tricky to handle, the item should be thoroughly inspected, and most items should be removed and discarded. Contact your local U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for more information on how to handle these items.

Leather Clothing & Furniture | S挽救able if a cover can be salvaged, otherwise it should be disposed of | If a cover cannot be salvaged, replace it. Clean with a suitable solution and non-phosphate detergent. For water damage, rinse and dry thoroughly. If there is mold, use a non-chlorine bleach and water solution. Accelerate the drying process by using fans and dehumidifiers. If the leather is damaged, it may need to be replaced. Use a non-washable item.

Removing Mold Caused by Flooding

Mold can start growing within 24 hours after a flood, so it is important to start drying the area as quickly as possible, before starting the cleaning process. This includes your furniture, appliances, and personal effects. Allow items like furniture, mattresses, upholstered furniture, and clothing to air-dry. These items should be covered and protected from further damage. Once the items have dried, they may need to be disinfected, cleaned, and treated to prevent new growth.

SAFETY TIPS WHEN USING BLEACH

- Read the label carefully
- Never mix bleach with acetic acid or ammonia or other acids such as vinegar or lemon juice
- Use in a well-ventilated area
- Do not use at full strength
- Wear protective gear

Keep your home dry is the best way to prevent mold problems.

To learn more about preventing mold, go to greenhealthhousing.org

Mold is a group of fungi that grow on organic material. It is a natural part of our environment and can be found in homes, where it can cause problems, musty odors, and other signs that mold may be forming. Following mold prevention guidelines is the best safeguard against this unwelcome and potentially harmful guest.

Mold Quick Facts

- Use the UGA Extension Mold & Moisture Home Inspection Checklist (http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C1083) to find the sources of moisture in your home. The most common sources of moisture are leaks and high humidity. Humidity in your home may come from a variety of sources, including water in the crawl space, water around the house, a large quantity of plants indoors, a large aquarium, or using an unvented heater indoors.

Removing mold

1. Fix the moisture problem
2. Dry the area
3. Remove the mold with a damp cloth and a solution of water and mild non-phosphate detergent

Preventing mold

- Install a dehumidifier to keep track of the indoor humidity
- Do it by 60 percent, ideally between 30 and 50 percent.

Sources:


Reviewers:

- Dr. Sarah Kilty, Professor and Department Extension Leader, North Carolina State University
- Dr. Claudette Hanks Rechel, Professor and Extension Housing Specialist, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
- Ms. Tracy T. Smith, Yokker County Extension Coordinator, University of Georgia

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- Jackie E. Eggen, Chatham County FACS Extension Agent

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