

# MOLD

Molds are microscopic organisms found everywhere in the environment, indoors and outdoors. When present in large numbers, molds have the potential to cause adverse health effects. Mold growth is common after flooding events.

## Health Effects of Mold Exposure

- Sneezing
- Cough and congestion
- Runny nose
- Aggravation of asthma
- Eye irritation
- Dermatitis (skin rash)

## People at Greatest Risk of Health Effects

- Those with allergies, asthma, sinusitis or other lung diseases.
- Those with weakened immune systems (e.g., HIV patients).

## How to Recognize Mold

- Sight—Usually appear as colored woolly mats.
- Smell—Often produce a foul, musty, earthy smell.

## Preventing Mold Growth

- Remove excess moisture with a wet-dry vacuum and dry out the building as quickly as possible.
- Use fans to assist in the drying process.
- Clean wet materials and surfaces with detergent and water.
- Discard all water-damaged materials.

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- Discard all porous materials that have been wet for more than 48 hours.

## General Mold Cleanup Tips

- Identify and correct moisture problem.
- Make sure working area is well ventilated.
- Discard mold-damaged materials in plastic bags.
- Clean wet items and surfaces with detergent and water.
- Disinfect with an appropriate biocide.
- CAUTION: Do not mix bleach with other cleaning products that contain ammonia.
- Use respiratory protection. An N-95 respirator is highly recommended.
- Use hand and eye protection.

*Adapted from OSHA Quick Card 3263-09N-05, U.S. Department of Labor.*



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Printed 8/17

500 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$40, or \$.08 per copy.