

Household Mold

Mold in your home can be dangerous to your health. It is destructive to your home and belongings.

Molds can cause infections, allergies, asthma and other breathing problems, 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. It looks dirty and smells bad.

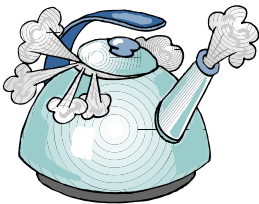
Mold grows on damp surfaces in your home. Mold spores are always present in the air and the right conditions allow them to grow. Mold growth can be black, brown or white and looks like a furry stain.

What you can do:

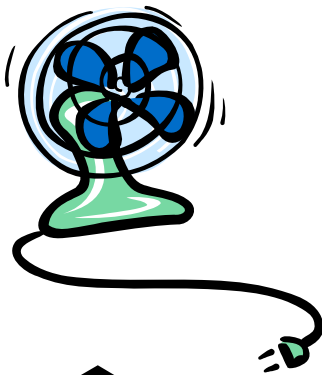


Keep it clean: Keep walls, floors, clothing and possessions clean and dry. Wash all indoor surfaces with soap and water. Dry surfaces after cleaning. Wash all clothes before putting away. Leave dirty shoes and boots outside. Clean floors and carpets regularly.

If mold growth is present, protect yourself! Wear gloves and open windows while cleaning. Wash the area using a stiff brush and hot, soapy water, and dry it well. Then disinfect the area using 1 cup of liquid bleach per gallon of water. Dry the area well after disinfecting.



Dry it up: The key to mold control is moisture control. Run fans or open windows whenever cooking or bathing. Don't leave wet clothes, towels or shoes lying around. Dry condensation on windows and walls. Dry wet coats and boots outside if possible. Bring only dry firewood inside. Use a dehumidifier or chemicals to absorb moisture in enclosed spaces. Have all leaks in pipes, roofs, walls and windows repaired. Keep standing water away from the home.



Air it out: Keep air moving in all areas of your home. Leave closet doors open. Open windows and doors on dry days. Don't close off rooms. Use fans to circulate air in enclosed spaces and corners. Keep furniture and stored items away from walls.

For more information, contact your local county Extension Office.



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