OIAQC

OHIO INDOOR AIR QUALITY COALITION 800-200-2526

OIAQC exists to promote healthy indoor air in Ohio and to promote optimum public health through education, advocacy, technical support and agency collaboration.

OIAQC is a group of state and local health departments, organizations and public and private partners focused on improving indoor air quality for all citizens of Ohio.

# Mold Clean Up

## Six Steps to get rid of mold you see in your home.

1. **Find and fix the water problem** – This is the most important step.

2. **Dry anything that is wet**
   - Start as soon as possible.
   - Move wet items away from walls and off floors.
   - For larger problems, use fans and dehumidifiers.

3. **Get rid of moldy items**
   - **Cover with plastic and throw out**
     - Moldy clothes, fabric covered furniture, drywall, insulation, plaster, carpet/carpet pad, ceiling tiles, wood products (other than solid wood), and paper products.
     - If sewage has been in the house, throw all soiled items out.
   - **Protect yourself and others**
     - During mold clean up, wear:
       - Long sleeves and long pants – put directly in laundry after use.
       - Rubber gloves.
       - Eye goggles.
       - N-95 rated "dust" mask available at hardware store.
       - If anyone in the home has asthma or a chronic disease – do cleanup when they are out of the house.

4. **Clean solid surfaces**
   - Scrub all moldy surfaces using a stiff brush, hot water and a non-ammonia soap or detergent.
   - Collect excess cleaning liquid with a mop, sponge, or wet/dry vacuum.
   - Rinse area with clean water and remove rinse water.

5. **Disinfect surfaces** (if desired)
   - Mix 1/2 cup bleach per gallon of water.
   - Spray, sponge or wash on moldy areas.
   - Allow to sit on the surface for 15 minutes.
   - Collect any remaining bleach solution with a sponge, or mop, or wet/ dry vacuum.

**Warning! Do NOT mix bleach with ammonia or other household cleaners!**

6. **Be on MOLD ALERT!**
   - Keep looking for signs of moisture problems.
   - Fix moisture problems.
   - Look for return of mold growth.
   - Clean up as soon as you see mold.

### When can we rebuild?

You can rebuild if the moisture problem is fixed, all mold is cleaned up, and everything is dry.

## How to choose a mold clean up (remediation) professional:

Get estimates from three companies. You may find companies under Disaster, Environmental, Restoration Services, or Mold Remediation in the Yellow Pages. When choosing a company, ask:

- What experience they have;
- What courses they have taken;
- What mold remediation certification(s) the manager has; and,
- If a manager who is certified will be on the job site at all times when work is being done.

A written agreement should be provided by anyone you hire. It should state in detail the work to be done, start and end dates, the materials to be used, and the price breakdown for both labor and materials. Review it carefully before signing. Never pay for all repairs in advance, and don't pay cash.

You should use a different company to clean up (remediate) from one that does testing for mold for you.

## Mold Resources:

- **Local Mold and Lead Paint Information.** Contact your local health department or board of health.
- ***Mold in Homes*.** Minnesota Department of Health's very informative web site on mold for homeowners and tenants. Available online at http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/indoorair/mold/index.html.
- ***Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings***. Provides technical information on how to clean up mold. EPA# 402-K-01-001. March 2001. Available online at www.epa.gov/iaq or from the IAQ Clearinghouse at (800) 438-4318.
- **New York City *Guidelines on Assessment and Remediation of Fungi in Indoor Environments.*** Available online at www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doh/html/epi/moldrpt1.html
- **Ohio Department of Health Indoor Environments Section**, Ph. (800) 200-2526, provides advice and information on indoor air hazards.

## Got Lead Paint?

**If your home was built before 1978, it may have lead paint. Before you begin work, learn how to prevent lead poisoning in your home.**

- ***Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home***. EPA# 747-K-97-001. September 1997. Available online at www.epa.gov/lead/leadpbed.htm. Call (800)424-5323 to receive a free copy of this or other lead documents, or to speak with an information specialist. Bilingual (English/Spanish) staff members are available Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 6pm.
- **Alliance for Healthy Homes.** Lead information for homeowners, landlords, and tenants. Available online at www.afhh.org.
- **Ohio Department of Health**. Listing of licensed lead risk assessors and contractors at Ph. (877) 668-5323 or (614) 466-1450, and on the Internet at www.odh.state.oh.us/ODHPrograms/LP_PREV/lp_list1.htm

**Note: This fact sheet is a basic clean-up guide for small areas of mold growth. *Other safety steps may be needed.* When in doubt, stop work and seek advice from your local health department or an experienced mold professional.**

**Source:** Fact Sheet: Mold In Homes. Minnesota Department of Health, Environmental Health Division, Indoor Air Unit. http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/indoorair/mold/index.html

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Local Contact Information: