



**Whether after a natural disaster or even a heavy rain, you must take IMMEDIATE steps to ensure that your home is free of mold and mold spores! Follow these best practices year round to ensure a safe, happy home.**

The key to mold prevention is moisture control. Here are some tips to reduce moisture year-round in your home:

- Use dehumidifiers, fans, and open windows to reduce the moisture in your home.
- Fix plumbing leaks as soon as possible.
- Do what you can to prevent rainwater from coming into your home. Check potential problem areas regularly for signs of mold growth.
- Clean the linens, clothes, and furniture in your home often and keep them dry.
- Store linens and clothes in dry, well-ventilated areas or, if you're leaving them unchecked for long periods of time, in sealed airtight containers.

***We recommend that you dispose of personal items that have mold on them, especially if you've already tried to clean them and mold is still present! Items you should dispose of include:***

- ***Linens and pillows***
- ***Clothing***
- ***Stuffed Animals***
- ***Books***
- ***Furniture with linen surfaces or fabric surfaces***

***Keeping material possessions with mold on them is not worth risking your health and the health of your family!***



Bleach/Clorox can kill most indoor surface mold/mold spores, but only works on non-porous materials (tiles, bathtubs, countertops, cement).

**Bleach produces harsh fumes, so make sure the area is well ventilated before you begin to clean with it.**

Using bleach the right way:

- Wear gloves when you clean to protect your hands from cracking or burning.
- **DO NOT MIX BLEACH WITH OTHER CLEANING PRODUCTS!**
- You only need to use one cup of bleach per gallon of water (about 1 part bleach to 10 parts water).
- Apply the solution to non-porous surfaces with mold growth, either by using a spray bottle or by using a bucket and a sponge or cloth.
- You don't need to rinse the surface afterwards, unless it is used for food preparation, or if it may be touched by small children or pets. Cleaned areas should dry naturally.

Using distilled, white vinegar works as a less harsh alternative to bleach that can kill most indoor, surface mold/mold spores, but like bleach it only works on non-porous materials (tiles, bathtubs, countertops, cement). Follow the same instructions as above, **but do not water the vinegar down.**

**Bleach and vinegar are only effective if used to clean mold AS SOON AS IT BEGINS TO APPEAR. The longer the mold sits, the harder it is to clean, and the chance of permanent staining is increased.**

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Unfortunately, if mold is visible on porous materials, it can't just be cleaned by common household methods. Drywall, wood fixtures (cabinets, ceiling fans, shelves, etc.), cardboard, and paper **should be removed immediately and disposed of if mold is present.** Contact a professional to assist you with this!