

How Do I Safely Remove Mold?

Caution: If the mold is caused by sewage or other contaminated water, it should be removed by a trained professional.

* Before attempting to remove mold, it is necessary to remove the source of the moisture that allows the growth of mold. Failure to do so may allow more mold to grow. *

If the area of mold is less than 10 square feet, the homeowner or apartment resident may perform the clean-up. For areas larger than 10 square feet, refer to the EPA link below. Exposure to mold and mold spores should be limited by wearing a N-95 respirator available at most hardware stores. Gloves and goggles should also be worn.

Mold growth can be removed from hard surfaces with commercial products, soap and water, or a bleach solution of no more than 1 cup of bleach in a gallon of water.

Caution: Never mix bleach with ammonia or other household cleaners!

For further information on mold:

www.cdc.gov/health/mold.html

www.epa.gov/iaq/molds/moldguide.html



You've got Mold!



Now What Do I Do?

Questions and answers for homeowners and renters for dealing with mold problems.

What is mold?

Molds are microscopic organisms that are a part of our environment and are found indoors and outdoors. There is a vast variety of molds but all must have warm, damp, and humid conditions. Molds spread and reproduce by means of microscopic spores. **Molds and spores are everywhere even in arid climates that exist in Utah, but they must have moisture to grow.**

What About Toxic Black Mold?

The term "toxic black mold" is misleading and usually refers to *Stachybotrys chartarum*. There are very few reports that molds found inside houses can cause unique or rare health conditions. A link between the presence of mold and these rare conditions has not been proven.



How Dangerous is mold?

Some molds produce allergens, (similar to pollen and pet dander), irritants (similar to pepper), and in susceptible people, may cause more serious effects.

People with asthma, allergies, or other breathing conditions may experience:

- nasal stuffiness
- throat irritation
- coughing or wheezing
- eye irritation
- skin irritation.



Should I test for mold?

If visible mold is present, sampling is unnecessary and it should be removed. No EPA or federal limits exist for mold or mold spores. If you are susceptible to mold and mold is seen or smelled, there may be a potential health risk.



How Can I Control Mold?

To control mold inside your home or apartment:

- Keep humidity levels between 40% and 60%. Showers create more humidity than baths. Bathroom fans should be run during showers and baths and for a time afterward.
- Use an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or a fan whenever moisture appears .
- When possible, open windows a small amount to increase air circulation.
- Promptly repair leaking roofs, windows, and pipes.
- Thoroughly clean and dry after flooding. Areas left wet or damp for 24-48 hours will grow mold.
- Vent bathrooms, clothes dryers, and cooking areas to the outside.
- Keep furniture, mattresses, etc. 6-12 inches away from exterior walls.