

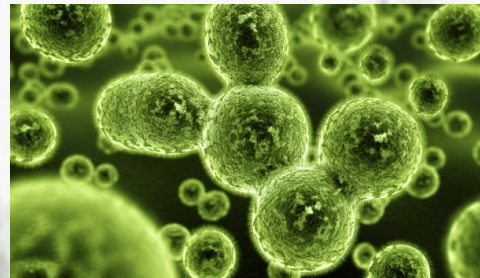


Mold

There are a number of mold types. However mold regularly seeks out moisture to reproduce. When excess moisture or water accumulates mold will often grow. Mold spores are common and cannot usually be completely eliminated so the best practice is to reduce moisture in your home as a control measure to reduce mold growth.

How to Avoid Mold?

- Moisture control is the key.
- Clean up water and moisture promptly and fix moisture problems.
- Dry water damaged areas/items within 24-48 hours to prevent mold growth.



Common Areas For Mold in Homes:

- Basements that have flooded
- Under sinks
- Under or behind refrigerators
- Behind walls that house plumbing pipes
- Stacks of wet/damp paper
- Around air conditioning units
- Wallboard around leaky/damp windows
- Under carpet that has been wet

Resources

[CDC: Mold](#) [EPA: Mold](#)

[Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home](#)

How to clean up mold?

- If less than 10 square feet (3 feet by 3 feet) it may be managed yourself, in certain cases. Follow the tips in [Mold Cleanup Tips and Techniques](#).
- If more than 10 square feet, you may want to look at more intense remediation; including contractors or removal of materials in affected areas. Resources include [Mold Remediation](#) and ACGIH.
- If the heating and air conditioning systems may be affected you should refer to the [EPA HVAC Guide](#).
- If you have health concerns contact a health professional before starting cleanup activities.