



Mold and Flooding

Cleanup Tips and Guidance



PREPARE BEFORE YOU START CLEANING

Cleaning isn't for everyone.

People with breathing problems, asthma, or weakened immune systems should avoid mold cleanup areas because mold can make symptoms worse.

Mold testing isn't needed.

If you had flooding in your home, assume you have mold.

Air out your home as soon as flood waters recede.

When electricity is safe to use, use fans and dehumidifiers to keep the area dry and ventilated. If you can already see mold growth, do not use a fan, as this can spread the mold spores onto other items.

Take pictures of the damage.

If you have damage and have to throw away items, be sure to take pictures for filing insurance claims.



PROTECT YOURSELF AS YOU CLEAN

Wear safety equipment.

Use a [NIOSH-approved N95 mask](#), goggles, and gloves to protect your mouth, eyes, nose, and skin while you clean.

Never mix chemicals.

Do not mix products containing ammonia with bleach because this creates dangerous vapors.



CLEAN CAREFULLY

To clean household surfaces **with visible mold growth:**

- Mix 1 cup of household bleach with 1 gallon of water.
- Wash surfaces with bleach mixture and scrub rough surfaces with a stiff brush.
- Allow to air dry.

To clean and sanitize household surfaces **without visible mold growth:**

- Clean surfaces with dish or laundry detergent and warm, clean water.
- Rinse with clean water.
- Sanitize by washing surfaces with a mixture of 1 cup of household bleach with 5 gallons of water.
- Allow to air dry.

Need Help?

If your mold problem is overwhelming, contact a mold remediation professional for help. Find one at dhs.wisconsin.gov/mold/contractors.htm.