



Ten Actions You Can Take If Mold Is A Problem

An EPA Publication

1. Wash mold off hard surfaces and dry completely. Absorbent materials, such as ceiling tiles and carpet, may have to be replaced if they are contaminated with mold.
2. Fix leaky plumbing or other sources of water.
3. Dry completely any materials that are not replaced.
4. Make sure there is good drainage; gutters and downspouts on eaves discharging either to surface drains or splash blocks to keep water from ponding near the siding and wicking in. Keep sprinkler lines directed away from the house. Check your yard after rain. If there is excessive water in the yard you may need to install a drainage system.
5. Keep drip pans in your air conditioner, refrigerator, and dehumidifier clean and dry.
6. Use exhaust fans or open windows in kitchens and bathrooms when showering, cooking or using the dishwasher.
7. Vent showers and clothes dryer to the outside.
8. Lower humidity to between 30-50%. Humidity levels can be measured by hygrometers which are available at local hardware stores.
9. Clean mold off hard surfaces with water and detergent, and dry completely. Absorbent materials such as ceiling tiles, that are moldy, may need to be replaced.
10. Add mold inhibitors to paint before applying.

Ten Things You Should Know About Mold

1. Potential Health effects and symptoms associated with mold exposures include allergic reactions, asthma and other respiratory complaints.
2. There is no practical way to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment; the way to control indoor mold growth is to control moisture.
3. If mold is a problem in your home, you must clean up the mold and eliminate sources of moisture.
4. Fix the source of the water problem or leak to prevent mold growth.
5. Reduce indoor humidity (to 30-60%) to decrease mold growth by: venting bathrooms, dryers and other moisture-generating sources to the outside; using air conditioners and de-humidifiers; increasing ventilation; and using exhaust fans whenever cooking, dishwashing and cleaning.
6. Clean and dry any damp or wet building materials and furnishings within 25-48 hours to prevent mold growth.
7. Clean mold off hard surfaces with water and detergent, and dry completely. Absorbent materials such as ceiling tiles, that are moldy, may need to be replaced.
8. Prevent condensation: Reduce the potential for condensation on cold surfaces (i.e., windows, piping, exterior walls, roof, or floor) by adding insulation.
9. In areas where there is a perpetual moisture problem, do not install carpeting.
10. Molds can be found almost anywhere; they can grow on virtually any substance, providing moisture is present. There are molds that can grow on wood, paper, carpet and foods.