

MOLD

What are molds? Molds are small organisms found almost everywhere, inside and outside, including on plants, foods, and leaves. Another common term for mold is "mildew." Molds grow best in warm and damp conditions, although they can also grow in cold locations, including reefers. Many times, mold can be detected by a musty odor.

How do molds affect people? In general, we are exposed to molds every day, and most of us don't have any reaction. Under the right conditions, some people may experience allergic reactions such as watery eyes, a runny nose, sneezing, nasal congestion, itching, coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, headache and fatigue. These symptoms are temporary and can be eliminated by removing the mold. Molds may also aggravate asthma. In rare cases, infections from building-associated molds may occur in people with seriously weakened immune systems.

Are there different types of mold? There are more than 100,000 types of mold. Common classes of mold include *Cladosporium*, *Penicillium*, *Alternaria*, and *Aspergillus*.

What is "Black Mold"? "Black mold" is a term sometimes used for *Stachybotrys chartarum*, a type of greenish-black mold commonly associated with heavy water damage. It has received quite a bit of media attention in the past few years. Not all molds that appear to be black are *Stachybotrys*. The **known** health effects from exposure to *Stachybotrys* are similar to other common molds. Studies are currently underway that will try to determine if exposure to *Stachybotrys* is associated with more severe health effects.

GENERAL RULES FOR MOLD CLEANUP

The following represent the general rules for mold contamination response and cleanup.

- Act quickly to locate and fix water intrusion sources.
- Remove the water and protect materials.
- Dry the area, control humidity and temperature.
- Clean the area and remove the mold.
- Ensure personnel protection. Personnel tasked with the removal and cleanup of mold-contaminated surfaces should be provided with the following personal protective equipment: half-face air purifying respirator with P100 filters, Tyvek-style coveralls, and nitrile gloves. Ensure personnel tasked with this operation are included in the command's respiratory protection program.

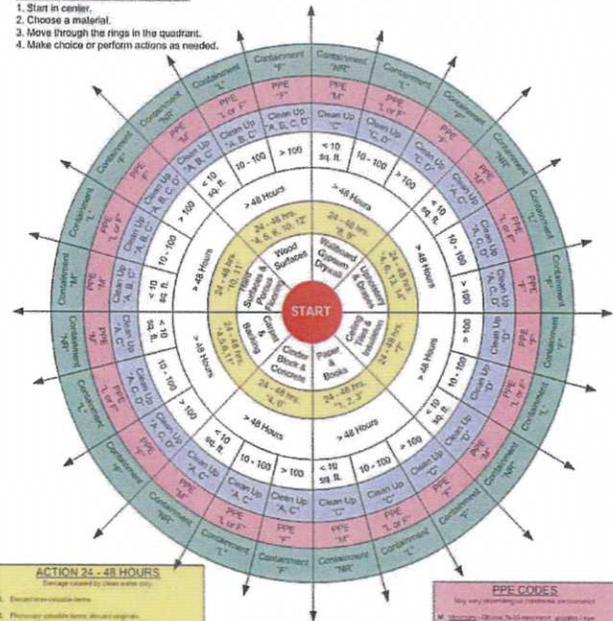
Visible mold should be completely removed from the material.

- Non-porous materials (i.e. painted and bare metal) should be thoroughly cleaned with a mild detergent solution and allowed to dry.
- Porous materials, including carpet, mattresses, and insulation (lagging), should almost always be discarded if contaminated with mold.

Mold-contaminated materials, once bagged, can be disposed of as regular trash.

Mold Remediation Wheel

1. Start in center.
2. Choose a material.
3. Move through the rings in the quadrant.
4. Make choice or perform actions as needed.



- ACTION 24 - 48 HOURS**
(Damage caused by clean up only)
1. Discard mold-contaminated items.
 2. Photocopy mold-contaminated items.
 3. Remove items from command.
 4. Remove items with water immersion.
 5. Use dehumidifiers to reduce humidity.
 6. Approximate drying with fans and/or fans. DO NOT use heat lamps. USE CAUTION with heat on wood floors.
 7. Discard mold-contaminated items.
 8. Dry in place if items in the command will become mold-contaminated. Discard and replace.
 9. Dispose mold-contaminated items.
 10. Vacuum or steam clean with water (cold detergent) allow to dry, mold remediation.
 11. Fix flooring, remove mold from in place and dry.
 12. Dry out remaining areas from mold to dry.
 13. May be difficult to dry. If items are valuable, consult mold remediation professional.
 14. Labeling of professionally cleaned materials.

- MOLD REMEDIATION / CLEAN-UP METHODS**
(Damage caused by mold removal and not addressed in PPE)
- A. Wet cleaning:** If material is porous, some mold may be removed by wet cleaning. Do not use dry cleaning on porous materials. Do not use dry cleaning on porous materials.
 - B. Detergent cleaning:** Surfaces with water (cold detergent) solution. Clean with water, use a mild detergent.
 - C. Bleach solution:** Bleach solution (1/2 cup bleach per gallon of water) can be used on non-porous materials. Do not use on porous materials. Do not use on wood floors.
 - D. Steam cleaning:** Steam cleaning can be used on non-porous materials. Do not use on porous materials. Do not use on wood floors.

- PPE CODES**
(See any warnings on material contaminated)
- M: Minimum - Goggles, Tyvek-style coveralls, nitrile gloves, eye protection.
 - A: Limited - Goggles, full respirator or half-face with P100 filters, disposable coveralls, goggles, eye protection.
 - F: Full - Goggles, disposable full-body coveralls, gloves and shoe covers, full face respirator with HEPA filter.

- CONTAINMENT CODES**
(See any warnings on material contaminated)
- L: Limited - Contain remediation area with 6 mil polyethylene sheeting. Secure perimeter with caution tape. Label and identify remediation area with NIOSH-approved labels of PPE building.
 - F: Full - Contain remediation area with 6 mil polyethylene sheeting. Secure perimeter with caution tape. Label and identify remediation area with NIOSH-approved labels of PPE building.

For further assistance or to obtain a full-size copy of the embedded Mold Remediation Wheel, call (619) 556-7070.