



5 FACTS ABOUT MOLD

- 1. Cold weather does not stop mold growth.**
- 2. Mold does not always have an odor.**
- 3. Mold can grow on hidden surfaces such as ceiling tiles and insulation.**
- 4. Mold can grow in any environment.**
- 5. Exposure to mold spores can cause health problems.**

After flooding due to Hurricane Irene, heavy mold growth covers the walls of this home.
Photo by Hans Pennink/FEMA

RESOURCES

New Jersey Department of Health:
http://www.state.nj.us/health/iep/mold_links.shtml

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:
<http://www.epa.gov/mold/index.html>
<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/espanol/moho.html>
(en Español)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
<http://www.cdc.gov/mold>

Federal Emergency Management Agency:
<http://www.fema.gov/removing-mold-your-home>

World Health Organization:
WHO Guidelines for Indoor Air Quality

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:
About Mold and Moisture

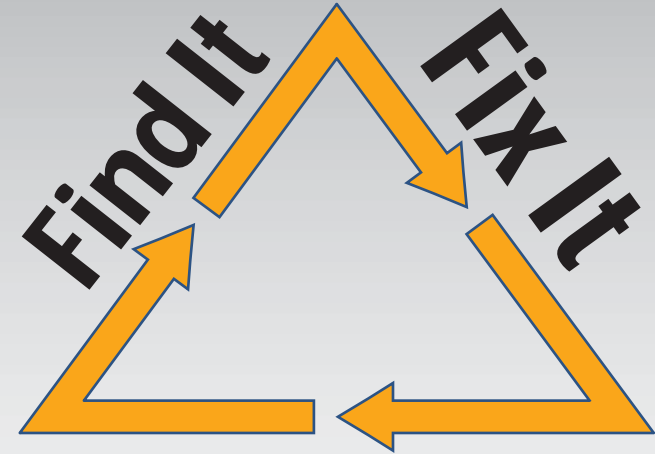
American Red Cross:
Rebuilding Your Flooded Home

For immediate assistance, contact one of the following local agencies:

- Health
- Social Services
- Environmental Health
- Housing

MOLD

A Hidden Health Hazard



Keep It Out



FEMA

NJ 4086 01/24/2013

Do I Have Mold?

Although some mold may smell “earthy” or quite foul, mold does not necessarily have an odor. Often mold is hidden behind drywall or in insulation.

Mold can cause a variety of health problems, from eye irritation to chronic lung disease. Children, pregnant women and persons with suppressed immune systems are particularly vulnerable.

Mold typically grows in areas of increased moisture. After a storm any area damaged by water could be subjected to mold.

Clean It Up



After Hurricane Sandy, workers remove water damaged sheet rock to prevent mold growth. *Photo by George Armstrong/FEMA*

- If mold covers more than 10 square feet, consult a professional.
- Start by eliminating moisture from the environment by using dehumidifiers and allowing fresh air to filter through the home.
- Absorbent materials, such as carpet and insulation, may need to be discarded.
- Remove sheet rock to at least one foot above the high-water mark.
- Always wear rubber gloves and an N-95 mask or fitted respirator when cleaning mold.
- Scrub affected areas with detergent and hot water.
- Apply a mixture of a 1 cup of household bleach with 1 gallon of water using a sponge, brush or rag.
- Let stand for 10 minutes. Rinse with clean water.
- Repeat the process as necessary.

Keep It Out

REDUCE HUMIDITY

- Keep humidity in the home below 40 percent by using air conditioners or dehumidifiers.
- Open a window while showering to prevent condensation.
- Choose carpets made from man-made fibers.
- Maintain vents for appliances that produce moisture.

KEEP THINGS CLEAN

- **Clean damp or mold-infested air ducts.**
- **Clean (and dry) fabrics in a well-ventilated area.**
- **Regularly check problem areas, such as basements, crawl spaces and bathrooms, for excess moisture.**
- **Clean with bleach mixture (1 cup of household bleach with 1 gallon of water).**

PREVENT WATER DAMAGE

- Fix leaky pipes.
- Take preventive measures before a storm hits.
- Keep rain gutters clear so water can drain away from the home.
- Caulk problem areas around bath tubs and sinks.